Bird Notes from the Nile

By

Lady William Cecil

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Feb. 1924

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BIRD NOTES FROM THE NILE.

BEE-EATERS.

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Birds

BIRD NOTES FROM THE NILE

BY

LADY WILLIAM CECIL.

Amherst, Mary Rothes Margaret
(Tyssen-Amherst) Cecil

"It was a very heavenly melody
Evening and morning to hear the birds sing."
Lydgate.

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To

WILLIAM AMHERST CECIL

("BILLY")

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS

AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY

HIS MOTHER.

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PREFACE.

I HAVE always loved birds, and it has been my habit during many wanderings to keep a short diary, and, among other things, always to mention any birds and the locality in which I saw them. But it is with great diffidence that I present these "sketchy" Egyptian Notes to the public. They do not in any way pretend to be scientific, and were originally only re-written for my children. However, the few friends who have read them in manuscript persuade me that they may be of more general interest, especially to those who, like ourselves, have to pass a winter at Aswân.

If this be so, and they should in the smallest degree amuse a traveller on the Nile, or help him to make the acquaintance of any bird not already known to

him, or to take more interest in the bird-life he finds on the river or in the desert, I shall at least feel that this little book has not been "sette forthe" quite in vain.

M. W. C.

BIRD NOTES FROM THE NILE.

CHAPTER I.

"... go abroad rejoicing in the joy
Of beautiful and well-created things,
To thrill with the rich melody of birds
Living their life of sunshine."

—*N. P. Willis.*

EGYPT, and especially Upper Egypt, as everyone knows, rejoices in a perfect climate, warm and dry, with perpetual sunshine. Its monuments of the Ancient World are of unrivalled interest. The stupendous Pyramids, and wonderful temples and tombs, stand alone among the marvels of the world. The scenery, too, is unique in its way, and

from an artist's point of view the glorious colouring is at once the delight and despair of the painter. The broad, shining river, dotted with wing-like white sails and gaily painted craft of all sorts, the splendid cataracts, with their tumbled masses of rocks and boulders, rugged hills, and golden deserts, and vivid green banks, waving slender palms and shady *lebek* trees, combine to form pictures of ever changing loveliness. Added to all this is a population at once intensely picturesque and interesting, many of them the living embodiments of those men whose portraits figure on the walls of the historic buildings.

And these Egyptians of to-day, living in the ancient land, have much the same manners and customs as their ancestors of the times of the old Pharaohs. The *shadouf* and the *zakeyeh* (water-wheel) still groan on the river banks; the women still winnow corn in the wind, and grind it in stone mills; fish are caught in the same kind of nets, and birds are snared in the same shaped

traps, as in the days of Seti and of Rameses.

But Egypt is not only an ideal land to the antiquarian, the historian, and the artist: it is also one to the ornithologist, or even to the simple, unscientific bird-lovers who take their pleasure in watching and studying the habits and homes of their feathered friends.

I have, with but very few exceptions, limited these notes to those birds we have seen which are residents in Upper Egypt, above Luxor, and in Nubia, and which other travellers in the same country may also see for themselves. Our visit to Khartoum was unfortunately too short to give time for making any but the most hurried notes of the birds we saw there, on the Blue Nile, and also on the White Nile above Omdurman. I have only mentioned a few among the many that are to be found in that part of the Sudan.

During the winter we stayed at the hotel at Aswan; we had, however, a fixed camp for several weeks on the edge of the desert, the western side of the river,

where, under the fine drifted sand and deep into the rocky heart of the mountain of Goubat el Hawa, we searched for the secrets of the past, and where during our "play-time" we could watch the birds.

Anyone interested in Egyptian history and art will realise how fascinating excavation work is, and how exciting the moment when, after much toil and trouble, some treasure is brought to light. During the winter (1901–2) we excavated twenty-five tombs, and found many wonderful and beautiful things of various ages. Most of these tombs seem to have been made in the time of the "Early Empire" some 5,000 years ago, and to have been successively reoccupied at later dates, as we found pottery and other things of the Vth, VIth, VIIth, XIXth, and XXVIth Dynasties, as well as of Ptolemaic, Greek and Roman, and also early Christian times. All the tombs are rock-hewn and, with one exception, with little trace of ornament, but the relics which they contained were of great value and interest, and some of them very beautiful. Among them

GIRL CARRYING PIGEONS.
(WOODEN STATUETTE.)

were lovely amethyst and agate heads and scarabs; lamps of various shapes; elegant alabaster vases of both cream and a pale bluish grey colour; vases of earthenware of countless sizes and shapes; and an exquisite "pilgrim bottle" in turquoise blue faïence, the neck representing a lotus flower, on either side of which is a little ape: an inscription runs round the bottle stating that "Ptah wishes the owner a happy new year." Other valuable things which rewarded our search were a very fine bronze dagger, some flint-tipped arrows of the VIth Dynasty, and two pearl shells inscribed with the names of Usertesen I.; there were also several children's toys, among these a wooden doll with movable arms. On her head she carries a basket, and in her hand she holds a pigeon by the wings in the same way that the market girls do in Egypt now. We found of course numberless mummies, some in richly painted cases, others wrapped in *cartonage* ornamented with painting and inscriptions. In a large earthenware sarcophagus was the mummy of a small bird.

The only decorated tomb was of the XVIIIth Dynasty, that of Ka-Gemu, "chief of all the priests of Elephantine." The outer vestibule is painted with scenes from the "Book of the Dead"; in the inner chamber two of the pillars are adorned with portraits of the deceased and his wife and various gods, and the ceiling is covered with most beautiful arabesque patterns, and from the centre a flight of ducks and pigeons flutter towards the door. The colouring is most vivid and lifelike, and the drawing wonderfully spirited.

We were up with the lark each morning, and worked hard till noon, when we, following the example of the birds, rested in the shade till the hottest hours were past, and the birds began their afternoon song. We then set to work again till the shadows were long on the sand, and the kites ceased to cry, and the owls hooted a warning that it would soon be dark, and that it was time to recross the river, laden with our day's spoil.

Most of our journeyings up and down

the river were made in a small native felucca, sleeping in tents on shore at night, so that we had every opportunity of poking about in odd corners of the Nile and its desert, as well as on its cultivated banks, for we were able to get into many places among shallows and sand banks where there was no depth of water for a *dahabiyeh* or steamer.

We found this mode of travelling most delightful and very unconventional, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The fitting out of our vessel was the cause of much excitement and amusement to the natives of Aswan, and for many days before we set sail "Reis" Ali and the *Dongola* were the centre of attraction.

The boat was about thirty feet long, with an enormous rudder and a big lateen sail. The "after"-part was covered with a movable awning, and during the day our beds were spread under it, making a most comfortable divan. Just for'ard of the mast a small caboose was made, which answered capitally for cooking; but as the native workmen had used bricks and mortar for its

construction, it made the *Dongola* so heavy in the bows that her steering powers were very limited. Our crew consisted of a *reis* (captain) and six men and a boy, all Nubians; an Arab cook, and a man that the Mudir of Aswan very kindly sent with us, in case of any difficulty with strange villagers. We had, however, no trouble, and were most civilly received everywhere.

Travelling thus humbly like themselves, the natives were ready to help us, and never even bothered us for *backsheesh*. We bought our provisions as we went along, and the country people were always willing to supply us with Arab bread, lentils, meal, and eggs. Milk we got quite fresh, as the cow or buffalo was brought down to the river's bank and milked there for us. We could also get chickens, and so were saved the trouble of carrying our "poultry yard" with us, and also the sorrow of seeing our pet fowls daily diminish in numbers. A hen, however, which we had bought for dinner one night, laid an egg! We therefore saved her life and kept her on board, and she

showed her gratitude by presenting us with a fresh egg nearly every morning! Egyptian chickens are small and thin, and their eggs not much larger than those of bantams; but they make up in quantity what they lose in quality, and fresh eggs are obtainable everywhere, from Cairo to Wady Halfa.

One day we passed a small felucca which was literally hung all over with coops full of chickens. We thought that they were for sale, or that they were being taken to some market, but on inquiry we learnt that the owner of the boat was a native of Korosko, and that he had come down the river to trade some two years previously, and when on his homeward voyage he got as far as Aswan, he found further progress stopped by the building of the great dam. Arab-like, he behaved quite philosophically, and contented himself by sailing up and down between Luxor and Aswan, waiting for the opening of the lock-gates. The large number of chickens he had on board were the provisions given him by the inhabitants of the various villages where

he rested during his voyage. He was said to be a very good man, and he could read the Koran.

The goddess Nekhebt, protectress of the King.

CHAPTER II.

"And above, in the light
Of the starlit night,
Swift birds of passage wing their flight
Through the dewy atmosphere.

"I hear the beat
Of their pinions fleet
As from the land of snow and sleet
They seek a southern lea.

"I hear the cry
Of their voices high
Falling dreamily through the sky,
But their forms I cannot see."

—*Longfellow*, "*Birds of Passage.*"

THE river flowing "through sands of gold" has for thousands of years been a highway from the heart of Africa to the "Northern lands" for the migratory birds which in late autumn and early spring pass in myriads up and down the course of the mighty stream. These sometimes fly so high that they seem to be only passing clouds, till a powerful field-glass "resolves" them into countless birds, which, in well-drilled battalions,

are following their leader towards their summer or winter quarters.

Flock after flock of swallows in the autumn may be seen "flying, flying south," away from the cold and into the warm weather, and again in the spring the northward-bound birds re-appear, carrying good news of approaching summer and sunshine. Then there are all the finches and warblers, and many other small birds, that pay a yearly visit to the sunny South, as well as those rarer kinds which are driven, by exceptionally severe weather, to make a temporary home in the land of the sun. Occasionally, some tropical bird may perhaps be tempted north in search of food. Among these are the lovely little yellow-breasted Sun-birds, which are met with in Nubia, and, I believe, have sometimes been seen as far north as Aswan. Golden Orioles are visitors on the Nile, and brilliant blue Rollers, too, we saw in the Ghizeh gardens, going to their more Northern homes in Syria, Spain, and Italy.

The low sand banks in the river, or some lonely place in the desert, are nightly

chosen as resting-places for the Storks, which are only travellers in the land.

"Welcome, O Stork; thou dost wing
Thy flight from the far-away,"

says the Armenian "Song to the Storks." We often watched great flights of these birds streaming overhead. When we were at Kalabsheh in February a flight of Storks passed us, and they were in such countless numbers that several hours elapsed before we saw the last of the stragglers belonging to this party of wayfarers. It was amusing to watch the Storks settling down on their selected camp each night. The whole flight would wheel round and round, high in the air, and then, at what we supposed must have been some given signal from the leader, they would simultaneously swoop down, a great mass of white and black wings and bodies, red legs and beaks, and the sand would become invisible beneath a moving mass of birds. In a few moments they would all be still, settled down for the night, and by sunrise next morning they were off again on their long journey. Common Cranes too are birds of passage, but the graceful

"Demoiselle" is, I believe, a resident in Egypt, and, though rare, is sometimes to be seen.

The beautiful purple Heron, also a native, is commoner in the Delta and Lower Egypt, but may sometimes be met with above Luxor, especially during the summer inundations.

The Black Stork is rather a rare bird, though he may be found now and again, generally standing like a solitary sentry, as he appeared to us on a little sand bank or islet near the Bab Kalabsheh; rocky crags not far from the desert borders being his resting-place.

All the birds on the river were a never-ending pleasure to me. The Pelicans would delight us with their quaint ways and the extraordinary patience with which they sat for hours, with outspread wings, drying themselves in the sun, only to plunge into the water and begin the same process over again! They often made me think of the lines in "Lalla Rookh"—

> ". . . the white pelicans that break
> The azure calm of Moeris' lake."

ROSEATE PELICAN.

The nest of the pelican is made of coarse rushes and coarse grass, and lined with fine grass. It lays two white eggs. The parent birds convey food to their offspring in their curious pouches; these pouches are so elastic that an angry pelican can easily catch a man's head in it. This I know to be true, for it was done by our own pet pelican when it was in a rage to the keeper who was feeding it!

Above Omdurman, on the White Nile, there were thousands of pelicans, and many other birds rare further north. In this locality is said to be found the Sacred Ibis, with snow-white plumage, and curious iridescent black tail, and almost bare black neck; but we did not see one.

The Spoonbills we often saw, slowly pacing the sand banks with solemn, high-stepping gait, or standing gazing into some calm little pool or backwater. Spoonbills build in colonies in trees, and make their nests roughly of dry grass and sticks. They lay two to four eggs, which are dull white, and spotted with reddish colour and grey.

One of the most beautiful of the waders is the Glossy Ibis, with shining plumage of blue and green and bronze. We were fortunate enough to see one of these lovely birds on the edge of a sand bank just south of Korosko when we were there in November. The rosy-plumaged Flamingoes are familiar to every traveller in Egypt. Large flocks of them are seen in the lakes of the Delta and Fayum, often standing in fantastic attitudes; but they are very rare on the river.

Many Herons are to be met with in the whole length of the Nile Valley. The common herons, exactly like those at home, were very familiar friends. We used to watch one of these every morning near Aswan, standing on one leg on a rock, waiting to catch his fish breakfast. The palm groves and sont, or mimosa trees, which in many places fringe the river banks, are the roosting-places of the Night Herons during the day, their hoarse cries being heard as they feed at night. The Buff-backed Herons, too, are very numerous in Upper Egypt. In winter their plumage is pure white, only here and

there a buff or a greyish shade is seen on their backs.

The little Egret, familiarly known as the "Paddy" bird, with milk-white feathers, is very charming; and if travellers can stay in Egypt late enough in the spring, he may be seen with the *egret*, or crest, which he dons in the breeding season. It is so pretty to see them following the plough to pick up insects, or sitting on the backs of the slowly moving buffaloes.

The weird cry of the Curlews may often be heard on still evenings. There are Ruffs on many of the sand banks, but they may easily be passed over, as they do not wear the feathers which give them their name and comically ferocious appearance except in the summer.

Green Shanks too are among the waders, and there are plenty of common Sandpipers. Stone Curlews, or Norfolk Plovers wander about on desert banks and we were lucky enough once to see a little Bittern, which is I believe now a very rare bird.

Among the Plovers is the Black-headed Plover or "Pluvian," which is said by some to be the "trochilus" or "crocodile bird"

of Herodotus, who says (Book II., 68) that it walks fearlessly into the mouth of the crocodile to seek for its insect food. Others say that the Spur-winged Plover is the courageous bird of ancient history, and that in modern times it still ventures between the open jaws of the monster reptile. The natives say that if the crocodile inadvertently shuts his mouth on the intruder the "*Zikzak*" makes such good use of its spurs, that, as one Arab quaintly put it in his broken English, "She make Timsah (crocodile) open the mouth again werry quick." These "Spurwings" or "*Zikzaks*" are seen everywhere, and are very conspicuous birds with sharply-defined black, white and brown plumage, and noisy voices.

Another pretty bird is the White-tailed Plover. It has a reddish back, white throat and light brown head, and as its name implies, a white tail. They are seen oftenest in shallow backwaters and irrigation canals, but are rare; we saw some in Nubia on a mud bank, which the falling river had just left exposed. The little Ringed Plover is also often seen. These small birds are lively and active, and run very

EGYPTIAN GOOSE.

fast while hunting for their food. A flock of Kentish Plover may be met with now and then. They are difficult to see as their plumage is so much like the sand banks, which are their favourite haunts.

Of geese and ducks Egypt has a large share of varieties. These birds were more plentiful in Egypt in ancient times than they are now, and many representations of flocks of them are to be seen on the walls of temples and tombs. Among those most numerous now on the river are the Egyptian Goose, a handsome bird with shaded brown head, reddish back, white wings, and pale, rose-coloured legs. These geese are most pugnacious, and during the breeding season the ganders fight desperately, and have even been known to drown each other as swans do. Their nests are made in fields near the river, and also on ledges and holes of rocks just above high water mark, they are also said to build in trees. When sitting, the goose only leaves her nest once a day, and during her absence is said to carefully cover her eggs with down. The White-fronted Goose, too, is common; he is a

beautiful fellow with a white face and pure white waistcoat, and orange beak and legs.

I think among the ducks we saw more Pochards, Shovellers and Common Mallard than any others, but there were also Gadwall, Pintail, Sheldrake, Ruddy Sheldrake, and White-headed Duck, the "Ferruginous Duck," something like a very small Pochard with a red-brown chest, and many other rare varieties.

On the beautifully-painted ceiling of the tomb of Ka-Gemu before-mentioned, the common Mallard, Pochard, Pintail and Gadwall may be easily recognised.

Common Coots are rarely seen, except in the Delta, the Crested Coot is found occasionally on the Nile, but we looked for this rare bird in vain.

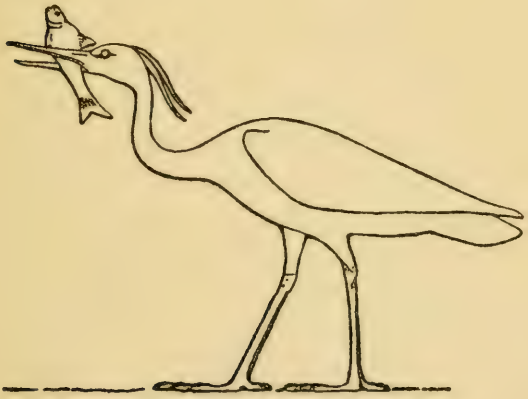
Among remarkable water-birds is the "Purple Gallinule," a species of Coot, with exquisite plumage of violet, blue and green. It is, however, almost exclusively found in the Fayum and Delta, and has scarcely ever been seen on the river. The Arabs call the Purple Gallinule "Dick Sultani."

Delightful as it was to us to watch all these various native birds, it was often

A Flight of Ducks.

CEILING PAINTING IN TOMB OF KA-GEMU.

with regret that we remembered whereas now we saw them by twos and threes, a few years ago the same species were seen by dozens, and even hundreds, and just as the crocodile has been frightened to the south of the Second Cataract by the steamers, many birds have been from a like cause banished. The waves from stern wheelers and tourist boats splashing on the sand banks encroach upon their favourite solitudes, and the traffic which has so greatly increased of late years has not left their nesting places undisturbed.



Heron, from ancient painting.

CHAPTER III.

"The voice of the dove speaks,
She says: 'The world is light, observe it!'"
—*Ancient Egyptian Song.*

"Then stand there and hear
The birds' quiet singing, that tells us
What life is, so clear!"
—*Browning.*

THE most conspicuous objects in every village on the banks of the Nile are the pigeon towers. These are the temporary abode of hundreds of wild pigeons, while the domestic pigeons are kept in the houses of the villagers. It is difficult to distinguish between them, and care must always be taken by the sportsman not to shoot the wrong bird, for the tame ones range a long way from home, and the death of one of these birds calls forth the wrath of the whole village. The wild and tame pigeons sometimes, though very rarely, breed together. The pigeon towers in Upper Egypt are square or oblong buildings, and are full of potsherds and large earthenware pots, in which the

pigeons are encouraged to build; on the outside, rows of brushwood, with the bushy ends projecting, are built into the structure, so as to form a tempting perch. Pigeons are kept in these towers chiefly for the sake of the manure, though I have been told they are sometimes killed as food for special feasts. There are apparently two distinct kinds of pigeons in the country, but it is practically unknown which is the original wild pigeon of Egypt. In the tomb we excavated—which dates from the XIXth Dynasty (1500 B.C.)—in the lovely flight of pigeons there painted, all these birds have the head, neck and upper part of the body blue; the lower part, including the rump and tail, white; a row of black dots on the edge of the wings and tail; legs and beak red.

Our curiosity was aroused one morning, when rowing across the river at Aswan, to see a rock near the Western bank covered with a flock of pigeons, which had lately taken up their residence in the tower on the "Sirdar's Island." We enquired the cause of this unwonted disturbance, and the

explanation was that a "werry big snake have go into the house-beejum (pigeon-house) and fright out all the beejum!" It appeared that nobody dare venture into the tower to dislodge the intruder, and for many days the poor pigeons were rendered houseless. We offered *backsheesh* for the skin of this "taban-kebir" (big snake), but even *this* did not further matters. We were told at last that a "wery good dervish" was to come and read the Koran at the entrance of the tower, and by this means the snake would be obliged to go! We never heard the result of this exorcism, but when we left Aswan the snake was said to be still in possession, and in the meantime the birds had flown to another home.

There are quantities of domestic pigeons, white, grey, and black and white. We bought a pair of young black and white ones from an old Arab out in the desert. They became so tame in a few days that they would not leave us, but insisted on roosting on my chair every night, and when sent out of doors they always returned; when they could not get to the

chair, they sat on the top of the constantly-open window. The native Nubian women make, out of the Nile mud, quaint little model houses, about a foot high, with sliding doors, for the domestic pigeons to nest in. One of these was given to us.

Besides the pigeons there are doves everywhere. The dear little "palm doves," the genuine Egyptian turtle doves, which

Pigeon's nesting-house.

are resident in the country, may be found in every palm grove, or preening their feathers on the sunny walls of the villages. They are pretty little birds with pinkish-blue heads and breasts, and brown backs and grey wing covers. There are also two other turtle doves, which are constantly met with in ruined temples and among the rocks: one has a blue-grey head, the other a pale brown head; but these do not remain in Egypt, except perhaps in

very small numbers, during the whole year.

"Palm and pomegranate, where the tree-doves coo,
The crested Hoopoe flits, the Roller-bird
Lights the dark thicket with his burning blue.

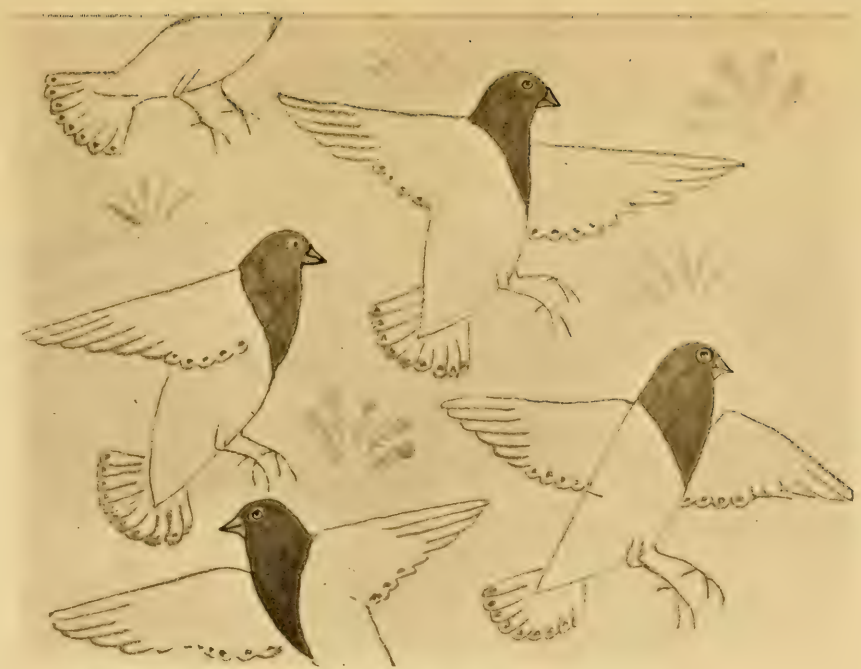
* * * * *

The white cranes watch their shadows in the pool;
Doves sunned on the roof their silver wings."

—*Sir Edwin Arnold.*

Writing of pigeons reminds me of a funny thing which happened to a friend of mine who was anxious to air his then slender stock of Arabic. Wishing to order a hot bath, he called the "boy" and gave, as he thought, the order in good, well-pronounced Arabic. After waiting for a very long time, the "boy" reappeared, but not with the expected bath, but with a roast pigeon and a bowl of sugar, much to my friend's surprise. Explanations, of course, ensued, and the waiter proved himself to have only obeyed orders, for my friend had asked for *Hamâm-sukkar* (pigeon, sugar) instead of *Hamman sukkn* (bath, hot).

There are many birds of prey in Egypt. Perhaps the commonest is the Egyptian, Parasitic or Yellow-billed Kite.



FLIGHT OF PIGEONS.

CEILING PAINTING IN TOMB OF KA-GEMU.

These are always soaring above the palm groves—

". . . Kites that soar sublime
In still repeated circles "—

or more prosaically doing the work of scavengers in every town and village, or on the banks of the river, and all day long their peculiar whistling cry may be heard. They are protected by the natives, who find them very useful. These kites build in towers and minarets, and also in high trees. Their eggs are laid in February, and by May the young are fully fledged. Another, the Black Kite, is rarer, but we saw one in March at El Kab hovering low over some sont trees by the river, close to the place where our felucca was moored.

There are a great many Kestrels, and they are seen everywhere. They are not particularly shy. One perched for some time on the long yard of our felucca while we were anchored close under the bank near Mahameed. At Edfu there were a great many Kestrels, and also Sparrow-hawks. We found a pair of the latter, and a nest, in the temple; rather an appropriate place, for some say that the

sparrow-hawk is the Sacred Hawk of Ancient Egypt, and the great temple of Edfu is dedicated to Horus, the Hawk-headed God of the old Egyptians. The Kestrel, however, is sometimes said to be the Sacred Hawk, and so also is the Lanner Falcon, which is common in Egypt, and is found in most of the rocky districts and on the banks of the river. This latter may be the sacred bird, and they are still used by the Arabs, among other falcons, for hawking, and many a quail, or even gazelle, has, no doubt, been caught by the aid of a well-trained Lanner.

". . . From the sky his falcon sweeping,
Perched upon his master's wrist,
Fair she was and glossy-feathered,
Sleek and fat, with shining crest,
. . . Best of birds that ever flew."
—"*Falcon Feast*"—*Sir Edwin Arnold.*

Marsh Harriers are rare in Upper Egypt, but are commoner in the Delta ; the Pale-chested Harriers are found in many places both in Upper Egypt and Nubia.

The long-legged Buzzard is considered a rare bird. We saw a specimen near Korosko in November, and another near Dabod in February.

We have often watched the Ospreys fishing in the river, when, on a still evening, the "Dongola" was moored to some quiet bank; a bird would hover for a moment, and then make a bold dash into the water, seize his prey and soar away out of sight to enjoy his meal in peace. The spotted Eagles, too, we constantly saw in unfrequented places on the river, standing immovable, apparently thinking hard, for ever so long; at other times busily engaged eating what we presumed to be fish, for though we never saw them catch any as the Ospreys did, we felt sure the food must have been caught and left for them by other birds. The small Booted Eagle was also seen many times in various places.

We first made the acquaintance of the Griffon Vulture, with his odd white frill, in the hills behind Shellal; the great Sociable Vulture, with skinny pink neck, we met above Wady Halfa. In many places the Egyptian Vulture is seen floating above the desert in the clear blue sky, with his yellow neck, curved back, and his beautiful black and white wings

outspread, and, like the author of "Barbary,"

> "I marvell'd so ill birds possessed such glorious wings."

The larger Vultures are more common in Middle Egypt than in Upper Egypt. Once when crossing the desert we watched the descent of the Vultures on a dead camel. Some had already reached the spot and others were rapidly swooping down, while in the sky hundreds were approaching from all directions like tiny specks in the clouds, summoned by the birds of each extending circle to the gruesome feast.

In Khartoum, all vultures are strictly protected by Government, as they are so useful in clearing away refuse.

The Long-eared Owls are found in Egypt throughout the year. They often perched on our tents at night and woke us with their hooting. The Short-eared Owls are said only to be in the country in winter. In the middle of March, while quail shooting near Kom Ombo, we saw five of these sitting close together—a very sweet sight. They all got up at the approach of the beaters. We saw the

Group of Short-Eared Owls.

Southern Little Owl first at Abou Simbel. Being the earliest travellers of the year, arriving there at sunrise one morning in November, we disturbed many of these little brown gentlemen from their roosting places on the heads of the wonderful "Osiris" figures, which stand as pillars inside that marvellous rock-hewn temple. The fluffy, soft Barn Owl is often to be found, blinking in the dark corners of many an ancient building, and in rocky places one may sometimes meet the little Scops Owl. While our boat was anchored in the afternoon below the quarries on the western bank of the river at the Gebel Silsileh, I saw a very large owl among the rocks. I supposed it to be an Egyptian Eagle Owl, but could not see it clearly enough to be certain, and never caught sight of it again.

At Luxor, towards the end of March, we went one night to see the moon rise over the great temple of Karnak, one of the most weird and wonderful sights imaginable. When we arrived, we found we had at least half-an-hour to wait before the moon would appear above the horizon.

So we wandered by starlight among the vast ruins, and, for amusement, lit a small magnesium lamp which my husband had in his pocket. The most conspicuous object thus suddenly illuminated was the beautiful obelisk of Queen Hatsheptsut, and in a few seconds its shining summit was surrounded by a bewildered throng of bats and owls, whirling in eccentric circles round the bright point, like giant moths round a giant candle.

With the birds of prey which frequent the sand banks on the Nile, the Hooded Crows are always to be seen. We have constantly been much amused watching the proceedings of all these birds, and the strict laws of etiquette that seem to be observed among them. We often noticed that when some special dainty had been found by the crows, the kites would arrive, and the crows would immediately decamp; then in their turn the kites would have to make way for a vulture, and if by chance an eagle appeared at the feast, one and all moved on and left the delicate morsel for his Majesty, the King of Birds. Such a scene as this is often enacted on the long

spit of sand at the northern end of the Island of Elephantine. In the same place the pariah dogs used to hunt the birds which were feeding there, chasing them as long as they could, and when the birds flew up out of their reach, the dogs would gallop round and round after the shadows, which flitted in that clear air, distinct and black on the shining sand. It is curious to note, by the way, that on the wing crows and ravens have been known to fight, and even to defeat eagles.

CHAPTER IV.

"Then all the burdis sang with voice on hight,
Whose mirthful sound was marvellous to hear."
—*Dunbar.*

AMONG Egyptian birds perhaps none are more fascinating than the Hoopoes. Every day they may be seen, near the mud villages or on the river banks, always fussy and inquisitive-looking, peering round every corner and thrusting their long bills into every hole, or dressing their smart feathers on the top of some sun-baked wall. They are very sociable birds, and their monotonous call of "Hoop-hoop-hoop" may be heard at almost every place along the whole length of the Nile Valley.

While sketching in the temple at Kom Ombo, a pair of Hoopoes amused me very much. They were rather timid for a time, but were so anxious to see what I was and what I was doing that at last their curiosity got the better of their shyness, and, as I kept perfectly still,

they grew bolder and bolder, coming gradually nearer in short little flights, and at last came so close that had I wished I could easily have touched them. They walked round and round me, and ended by peeping carefully into the basket containing my sketching materials. They seemed at last satisfied with their inspection, and trotted off along the low wall near which I was sitting, and remained on it sunning themselves for at least a quarter of an hour before they flew away in search of further excitement.

While we were at Aswan, Hoopoes were often sold for food in the market, but owing to the intervention of the S.P.C.A., this cruel practice is now punishable. In captivity they become very tame, but are not agreeable pets, as it is almost impossible to keep their cages sweet and clean. Hoopoes build anywhere — in holes in the ground, in trees and stumps, and cracks in walls. Unlike almost every other bird, even in a wild state, their nests are very dirty, neither of the pair taking the least pains to keep it at all tidy.

The Arab legend of the Hoopoe's crest

is pretty. It tells how the Hoopoes, having rendered some service to King Solomon, were asked by him in what way he could reward them. They, seeing his splendour, and being dazzled by all his magnificence, with one accord begged him to give them crowns of gold. King Solomon, while deploring their vanity, complied with their request, and presented them with crowns of the precious metal. The birds flew away, proud and delighted, to show off their grandeur to the rest of the feathered world.

Soon, however, they found these heavy ornaments far from pleasant; in fact, as soon as the novelty of wearing them had passed off the severe headaches they caused quite outweighed their pride in such finery. Now in a very subdued mood they returned to King Solomon, and with much humility implored him to take back the gift which, in their arrogance and envy, they had asked for. Whereupon King Solomon preached them a long homily on vanity and its consequences, but added that as the Hoopoes had abased themselves, and had shown the good sense to

Hoopoe.

ask him to take back the golden crowns, he would do so, and as a reward for their meekness and a mark of his favour he presented them with the beautiful little feather crowns which the Hoopoes wear to this day.

The Bee-eaters are perhaps the most showy of the birds of Egypt. In summer the lovely little Green Bee-eater is commoner below Luxor than above, but in winter it is found here and there all the way to the Second Cataract, and is a constant resident. The larger varieties are the Blue-cheeked and the Common, or Yellow-throated, Bee-eater. We saw these at Khartoum in November, and again in the late spring in Egypt. While breakfasting in the garden at Khartoum a pair of Bee-eaters always flitted about close to us, and amused themselves swinging on a long string which was stretched between two trees to support some climbing plant.

The Bee-eaters well deserve their name, for they thoroughly enjoy hovering beside a hive, and snapping up the bees as they fly in and out. I have seen them thus

amusing themselves in the south of Spain, and have no doubt they do the same in Egypt whenever they have a chance. It is marvellous to watch the rapid way they catch bees while flying.

Among our other guests at breakfast at Khartoum were a pair of Bulbuls. They were so tame, they would sit close to the table on the back of a vacant chair and fearlessly pick up the crumbs we scattered for them, singing their thanks in the most delightful way in an exquisite song all shakes and trills and bubbling notes. They visit many parts of the country, especially the Fayum.

There are many song birds in Egypt, among them nearly thirty different warblers. Most of these are only found in the Delta, but still there are several which frequent the Nile Valley far up into Nubia. Near Aswan we saw the Black-headed Warbler several times, generally among some scrub, especially on the island now called "The Telegraph Post," or, as the Arabs call it, the "Telega-boat!" Close to our camp at Dabod in February we both saw and heard the Sedge Warbler,

and at Aswan and in several other places the Olivaceous Warbler was very plentiful. Another pretty little songster is the long-tailed Graceful Warbler. This is a fairy-like little bird, and is under five inches long, nearly all tail! I saw two one morning on one of the rocky islets to the south of Elephantine, and several in Upper Egypt, at Gebel Silsileh, at Erment, and other places; but I believe they are commoner north of Luxor.

During our rides through the bean and durrah fields near Aswan we constantly came across the Fan-tailed Warbler, darting about among the tall stems of the corn. This is another tiny bird, only four inches long; it has a sweet little voice when it sings, but a harsh, angry one when we happened to disturb it. The Fan-tailed Warblers build very pretty little nests, and, somewhat after the fashion of Tailor-birds, they sew or twist together the grass and plant-stems above them. Their eggs vary much in colour. I saw the Wood Warbler among some bushes on Sehel, an island near the First Cataract, and a bird which I think was a

Greater White-throat near the same place. The Lesser White-throat is seen everywhere.

All these rocky islands between Elephantine and the Cataract are much frequented by birds, and doubtless there are many rarities to be found there, and among the reeds and bushes on the banks, especially on the western side, where there are fewer habitations and also less cultivation than on the eastern bank.

The Blue-throat is another warbler. They are more generally to be found in Lower Egypt, but make their way south very often. In form they resemble Redstarts, and have lovely blue throats edged with black and reddish chestnut, and in the middle of the blue a white or a red spot. They flit about in the long grass and among the peas near the villages on the eastern bank just north of Aswan, and are particularly numerous in one garden which was shaded with apricot, lemon, and fig trees. They have a comical way of running very fast, stopping short, and cocking up their tails. The Blue-throat's nest is made of grass and little

Fan-tailed Warbler.

plant stems, lined with fine grass. The young are turned out of the nest before they can fly, and may often be seen on the ground near the home whence they have been ejected.

Besides the varied notes of the warblers, the twitter of sparrows constantly reminded us of home. The Egyptian Sparrow is a very daring and bold little fellow, coming in and out of the room without invitation, hopping about on the hunt for stray crumbs. The sparrows are so plentiful in some places that they become quite a nuisance. In the temple of Medinet Habou there are thousands of sparrows, which nest in holes in the walls, "sparrows where Pharaoh's name is writ." Some of the holes, too, are inhabited by cobras, and when one of these snakes pops out his head he is immediately mobbed by the whole sparrow population of the temple. But Mr. Cobra quietly "bides his time," and when he gets a convenient chance, he seizes one unfortunate bird out of the crowd of his tormentors, and retires promptly to his own hole to eat his victim. The rest of the screaming, fluttering

throng retreat at the same time to their respective corners to wait and watch for the next chance of worrying their voracious enemy.

During the winter months there are a great many Spanish Sparrows, but these are only visitors, not residents, though at times they are said to be quite as numerous as the common sparrows, but we did not see very many of them in Upper Egypt. The Spanish Sparrows are much like the others, but are rather darker in colour and have reddish brown heads. We found a baby sparrow that had fallen from its nest at Edfu, and we tried to rear it by hand, but it did not live long, as it had been badly hurt by its fall. It was a dear little thing, and got very tame during the short time we had it.

Various Finches are found in the Delta, though there are very few in Upper Egypt; but the pretty Trumpeting Finch, or Desert Bullfinch, belongs to Upper Egypt and Nubia, and may constantly be both seen and heard on the edge of the desert, among the halfa grass, and also in the fields of ripe grain. It

has a bright red beak, and its plumage is tinged with pink, which in the breeding season becomes much deeper and richer in tone. The note of this bird is very distinct and clear.

Perhaps the most honoured feathered guests at our camp near Aswan were a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes, which seemed to take great interest in our excavations. Nearly every evening these birds came round to inspect our day's work. Alighting on the highest mound of débris, they would strut about in a most important way, at the same time showing off their lovely indigo plumage in the light of the setting sun.

Another bird with a pleasant note is the Bush Babbler. In Nubia especially they may be heard chattering and "babbling" where there is thick scrub on the river banks. Though nearly as large as Thrushes, with longish tails, they are difficult to see, as they seem to be constantly hiding from some chance enemy.

Among the song birds I must not forget the Larks. Perhaps above Thebes the most common is the Crested Lark. One

sees it everywhere—on the edge of the desert, in green fields, and among the graves of the dreary-looking Arab cemeteries—nodding its knowing little head with the odd crest, like the feather on the head of Maat, the Egyptian goddess of truth. The Crested Larks are very cunning in the way they hide their nests. They generally make them in a hole in the ground, in some sequestered nook hidden by grass or stones. It is curious that these birds differ in the shade of their colouring according to the tone of the locality which they inhabit, those in a light, sandy district being much paler in plumage than those which have their home where the soil is dark.

Then there are the Desert Larks—"Dust Birds" we used to call them—with plumage so like the sand that when they are still they are quite difficult to see, even at a short distance. They are friendly little birds, and would run in and out among our tent ropes, picking up the little scraps of food we threw out for them.

There are two varieties of desert larks,

the Common and Tristram's. The latter is a rather smaller and darker bird. Both kinds abound at Aswan, and we often saw them together.

In the desert, generally at some distance from the river, the Large Desert or Bifasciated Lark is found, though it is rather a scarce bird. We saw a few a mile or two south-west of the "Deir Simūn." They ran very fast for some distance before taking to flight.

The Tawny Pipits, too, paid us many a visit. These were, though larger, even more difficult to see than the larks, their plumage so closely resembles the ground. They are said to be spring visitors only, but some must, I think, remain, all the year in Egypt. They were at the Goubat el Hawa quite early in February.

The White-rumped Chats, or "Tumblers," were common about Aswan, and two pairs of these came daily to our camp, and were on the most familiar terms with us. They were continually flying about our "diggings," and would even ventu quite into Ka-Gemu's tomb, where I was tracing and copying the beautiful designs it

contains. We saw these "Tumblers" with both white and black heads. Mourning Chats are said to frequent Nubia, but we did not see many at Aswan after December —they seemed to leave all at once—but we met them again near Bueb in March.

The Hooded Chat, which seems closely allied to the "Tumbler," is another specially Nubian bird, and lives near long stretches of desert. We noticed it about Wady Sabua, and again just south of Abu Simbel.

Desert Chats are numerous where the sand comes down to the river's edge, while the Black-throated Chats are oftenest seen in the durrah fields, and among the lupins and beans on the cultivated banks, and the Wood-chat may be considered a resident in Egypt and Nubia. The Black-throated Chats are said only to come to Egypt in the spring.

The Common Wheatear, too, is only a spring and autumn visitor, but there is another larger Wheatear which is a resident, and may be constantly met with both in Egypt and Nubia.

When we were at Asyut we saw the larder of a great Shrike or Butcher Bird. It was neatly arranged on the branch of a sont tree. Beetles, flies, and many delicate morsels were stuck on the thorns ready for dinner, or, perhaps, to feed its young ones, but we could not discover a nest on the tree. There are two other Shrikes: the Lesser Grey Butcher Bird, which is, however, very rare, and the Pallid Shrike; this latter ranges as far as the Second Cataract in small numbers. The Masked Shrike is a spring and summer visitor, and may often be seen among the trees and bushes on the river banks. The Red-backed Shrike, too, comes to Egypt in the spring, but is rather uncommon.

Most of the Fly-catcher family only pass through the country during migration, though the Spotted Fly-catcher sometimes remains to breed in the Delta and the Fayum.

The favourite of the epicure, the Ortolan, is found occasionally in Middle and Lower Egypt, but not in Upper Egypt and Nubia, and it is only a

traveller, passing through in autumn and spring.

A few other Buntings come as visitors to the Delta and Fayum, but are rarely seen further south.

Ruff.

CHAPTER V.

"And the sixth, 'In Cairo fair,
On a lofty minaret,
Mud headquarters, lined with hair,
Make me winter quite forget.'

"'At the Second Cataract,'
Says the last, 'mid beauties brown,
Is my nest; the place exact
Is a granite monarch's crown.'"

"*What the Swallows Say*"—*Théophile Gautier, trans. Tom Dutt.*

WE often went for long rides across the desert, and into the hills on the western banks of the river, following the narrow valleys, and picking our way among fallen rocks and the broken fragments of ancient quarries. Here the Ravens build, the big Brown-necked Raven and also the smaller and rarer Abyssinian Raven, with stumpy beak and odd moustache. This bird looks like the "monstrous crow" of nursery rhyme fame, and might well have alarmed poor Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

The Pale Crag Swallows, too, live in

this rocky district, and also among the stones and boulders in the river. These birds are residents, and so, too, are the pretty little Oriental Chimney Swallows. They are much deeper in colour than the common Chimney Swallow, the under-part being all reddish brown, not shading into cream like their Northern relations. The Oriental Chimney Swallow builds in the mosques, minarets, and houses of the towns and villages, and in ancient tombs and temples. We found on the inside wall of one of the tombs we excavated the remains of a swallow's nest, black with age. It must have been built there at least a thousand years ago.

Beyond these rocky hills is a vast, pathless, baking-hot desert, a wonderfully wild and desolate country, and yet even here are traces of animal life: the spoor of jackal, fox, and hyena, and the little jerboa; the winding trail of the snake or the fern-like track of the beetle, and also the footprints of birds, great and small, which inhabit this barren land.

The Egyptian Goat-sucker is one of these, and also the Sand Grouse, which

are generally to be found in small packs in the desert, or they may be sighted in the early morning or late in the evening flying very high at a tremendous pace to the river, where they go daily to drink. The Sand Grouse lays its eggs in the sand, in a little hole which it hollows out and lines with withered grass.

There is a rarer kind, the Senegal Sand Grouse, which is sometimes met with. It has no black "waist-belt," and has more grey on its head than the other variety.

The coroneted Sand Grouse is another rare bird, which may be seen occasionally in Nubia. It can be easily identified by the peculiar patch of black on its chin, and on either side of its face. It is also smaller than the commoner variety.

An indigenous bird is the pretty little Desert, or Sand, Partridge, which is not much bigger than a Quail. We saw many of these.

A very scarce bird, which loves the desert, is the Cream-coloured Courser. It appears in small parties in quiet places, and can easily be distinguished by its peculiarly marked head and by its white

legs, and when running by its lightning-like speed.

Besides geese, ducks, desert grouse, and partridges, there are few "game" birds in Upper Egypt, but we must not forget the Quail, which every spring return in such numbers that they afford excellent sport to all who care to "walk them up." They are, however, migratory birds, though a few certainly remain in the country each year to breed. In the clover, lentil and bean fields they may be found after about the 10th or 12th of March, and we saw a few near Aswan much earlier even than that. We only shot them "for the pot," and very good they were! Kom Ombo is a good quail country, and also the neighbourhood of Thebes, and many other places between Thebes and Cairo, in fact wherever suitable cover is to be found. Four different snipe occur in the country, the solitary snipe on the Delta only, but the common and the Jack Snipe as far as Nubia, the painted snipe chiefly in the Fayum.

I think perhaps the birds we loved the best were the little black and white Nile

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER.

Kingfishers. We never tired of watching them. It was fascinating to see their quick flight, and wonderful hovering, and the bold dash with which they would plunge sometimes quite into the water to secure the fish which they had spotted with their bright little eyes, and the proud way they would sit, with crest erect, on the rocks, after having swallowed their prize. For months at Aswan we saw three of these little birds every day. In the early morning when we were crossing the river to our excavations they were very busy fishing, and on our return after sunset the little family party were seated side by side, always on the same rock. Then, alas! one evening a sportsman (?) (I am glad to say he was not an Englishman) went out in a boat as the sun was setting in crimson and gold, and he stalked our three little friends close up to their roosting-place, and shot the first one sitting, blowing it all to pieces; the second rose a couple of yards above the fatal gun, and shared the same fate. He had to reload before firing at the third, which had therefore time to get further off, but it was

badly wounded and fluttered away among the rocks. I suppose he considered it "sport," and it certainly was very "smart" shooting, but I only hope the sportsman heard and understood the bad names which our native boatmen spontaneously hurled at him as his boat passed ours on the way home.

Next evening we rowed as quietly as we could to the scene of this small massacre, to look for some trace of the little wounded bird, and we found him in his accustomed place, looking very dishevelled and crestfallen, and close beside him was a white-winged Wagtail, which had evidently taken pity on the Kingfisher's forlorn condition, and had come to bear him company. We found by constant observation that this really was the case, and that the Kingfisher and the Wagtail roosted side by side every night, anyhow during the remainder of our stay at Aswan.

We saw also this same man fire many rounds at a Kite which was sitting on a rock in the river. The foolish bird would not move, and at last was hit,

NILE KINGFISHER AND WHITE WINGED WAGTAIL.

though not seriously. It flew across the river and alighted on the rocks close to our camp, where it remained all day, not the least disconcerted by our busy gang of diggers, all hard at work. By sunset it had evidently recovered, for it then spread its broad wings, one of which was minus several feathers, and soared away to the northward, and we saw it no more.

The common Kingfisher is often found in Lower Egypt, but seldom above Luxor, though an occasional one may stray south. The little Indian Kingfisher appears at times in Upper Egypt and Nubia, but, like the other, is probably only a straggler.

The White-winged (or Rock) Wagtails do not come much further north than Aswan; they are found, however, in Nubia, and all the way to Khartoum. While we were there a Wagtail used to come in and out of our room, perfectly fearlessly, and seemed very much at home; it perched on the sill of the French window and allowed us to take its photograph. These wagtails nest in holes in the rocks on the river banks,

and on the rocky islets near Aswan and further south.

As well as the "white-winged wagtails" we saw constantly at Aswan, on the island of Philæ and the other islands above the First Cataract, which appear to be their headquarters, there are "White Wagtails," that are really more or less grey and black, but have a pure white breast. There is also a rare Grey Wagtail, rather a larger bird than the others, with legs almost as pale in colour as those of the Tawny Pipit. We saw one in our camp near Rediseyeh, also two grey-headed Yellow Wagtails, which are almost alike, but one has a white eyebrow, and the other has not. The latter is common everywhere, but I think most of those we saw at the Second Cataract and further south into the Sudan were the white-eyebrowed variety. A yellow Wagtail came on board the *dahabiyeh* of some friends near Kom Ombo. One of the party was ill and unable to leave her cabin. The bird flew in at the window and ran about catching flies, and it must have stayed on board the vessel, as it continued to come

into the cabin at the same hour for more than a week, although they were sailing down the river. The handsomest of all this family is the Black-headed Yellow Wagtail, which is a native of Upper Egypt and Nubia, and is seldom seen further north than the Fayum. It is easily distinguished from all the other yellow wagtails by its perfectly black head.

Among familiar birds in spring the Cuckoo may be seen, but he is only a bird of passage, and his voice is rarely, if ever, heard in Egypt. The great Spotted Cuckoo, however, lives in the country, and may often be observed in the bushes and trees. It is supposed to have a cuckoo-like call, but we, anyhow, did not recognise it among the innumerable bird notes we heard.

One might go on mentioning bird after bird which we have caught sight of on the river and its banks. Several different Gulls and other sea-birds are found quite far into the heart of Africa, generally in the summer. Tern of various kinds abound, both on the lakes and the river: the "Caspian" and the Gull-billed Tern,

and the rarer "Whiskered" Tern, the Lesser Tern, as well as the quaint Scissor-bill, but all these birds are probably migrants, though a few may remain to breed occasionally in the Delta or Fayum. Many other Hawks and Falcons too, and hundreds of smaller birds, are flitting about everywhere: Chats, Warblers, Redstarts, Wrynecks, etc., etc.; but to enumerate them all here would be wearisome. I have, therefore, added a list of birds which are likely to be found in Egypt, which list may perhaps be useful to the Nile tourist, and a help to him in looking for birds in the various localities in which they are most probably to be found.

The natives are very knowing about birds and their ways, and much interesting information may be gained from them to which a little knowledge of Arabic greatly helps. They will show you where to seek the nests of various birds, and point out the spot where the Sand Grouse come down to drink, and where the Wild Geese habitually feed. They can tell you almost to a day when the Quail will

WINGS AND SAILS. WHITE-WINGED TERN.

arrive at a certain place, and perhaps even the week when the lovely little Sun-bird will reach its northern limit. They generally can swim like fish, and will retrieve many a bird for you in the water. On land the army of "beaters" who volunteer to accompany you out quail-shooting is of rather questionable assistance, and the numbers of little urchins who unexpectedly pop up in front of the gun, and demand *backsheesh*, and vociferously declare they have been "hit," are rather trying to the hot and tired sportsman.

Scissor-bill.

CHAPTER VI.

"These birds have very joyful thoughts; think you they sing
Like poets, from the vanity of song?
Or have they any sense of what they sing?
And would they praise the heaven for what they have?"

—*Tennyson.*

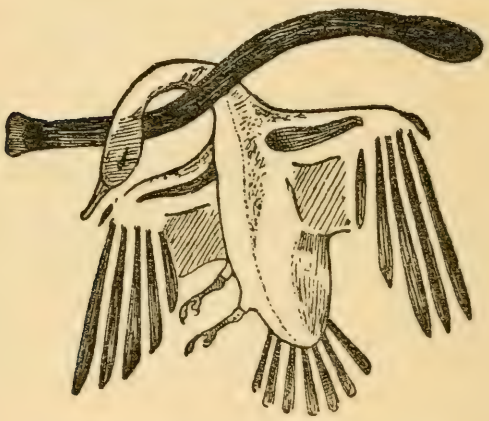
THE bird-life in Egypt is certainly an added delight to anyone who comes to this enchanted land, and watching, however superficially, their strange little lives enhances the interest of a journey up and down the Nile. For there are birds everywhere. We saw them, and heard their voices continually, all day, the twitter of the Sparrows, the "hoop" of the Hoopoes, the cooing of Doves, and the crying of Kites, and the endless and varied notes of the song-birds. And after the sun had gone down, when we were sleeping on the deck of our boat or out in the desert, I would often listen with dreamy ears to the hooting of an owl or the weird cry of a curlew or

some other bird which disturbed the calm stillness of the "Eastern night."

These familiar sounds were no doubt heard in long-past centuries by those who now, as silent mummies, are sleeping beneath the golden sands. The ancient Egyptians must have had a love for birds, for there are so many of them sculptured and painted in the ancient monuments. These bird pictures are always wonderfully lifelike, and charming in design and execution. It is difficult to say where the best are to be found. Perhaps those in the temple of Queen Hatsheptsut at Deir el Bahari are altogether the most perfectly finished, but the spirit with which those at Tell el Amarna are drawn could hardly be surpassed.

The old Egyptians must also have thoroughly enjoyed sport, and we see many pictures which portray some Pharaoh or great man in his light canoe, made of papyrus stems, his wife and sometimes also his children with him, bird-hunting among the tall reeds of the lakes and marshes, the hunter dexterously hurling his throwing-stick (like a boomerang)

with one hand, while with the other he grasps a handful of birds already caught. The "bag," no doubt, was varied, as ibis, geese, and ducks, besides many small birds, are depicted rising *en masse* from the covert. Tame geese served as decoy birds.



Goose killed with a boomerang.

Cats must have been regularly used as retrievers, as they are not unfrequently portrayed thus on the monuments.

Sometimes geese and ducks alone were caught in very large nets. There is a picture of a net spread out which seems so weighted with game that it takes four men

to keep the draw-line taut; a fifth man stands in the net catching birds with both hands, while three other men are busily employed packing the live birds into cages.

Small traps were also used for snaring birds singly. These traps, which were the fashion thousands of years ago, are almost identical with those in use in Egypt to-day. We bought one on the island of Elephantine with the bait in it, ready for setting.

> "The cry of the goose wails,
> It is caught by the worm,"

says an early Egyptian poem, with a little touch of sadness.

Wild geese were taken in great numbers by professional bird-catchers, to be fattened for the market; they were systematically crammed with balls of paste. Geese, ducks, and also smaller game, such as sand-grouse, quail, etc., were preserved by being salted in large jars. When they were wanted for table they were well soaked in water, to get rid of the salt, and were then either stewed or eaten raw. A beautiful painting from a tomb at Thebes represents a great official

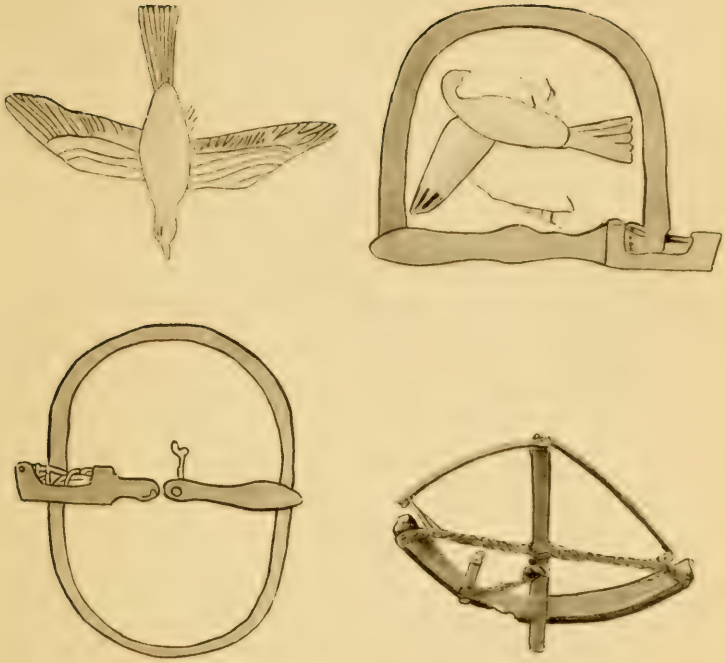
inspecting a large flock of geese. Ser and Terp are names found in the hieroglyphs for two kinds of fat geese.

Pigeons were caught and kept, and doves, too, were fattened in the same way as geese. The time of the visits of the migratory birds coming from the South was evidently one of rejoicing for the bird-catcher, and luck was probably believed to be brought by the earliest bird that caught the worm, for another poem tells us:

> "I go to set snares with my hands;
> All the birds of Arabia flutter over Egypt,
> Anointed with myrrh.
> The one that comes first seizes my worm;
> He brings his fragrance from Arabia;
> His claws are full of incense."

Ladies amused themselves by catching small birds in nets, and there was probably great excitement when some little feathered traveller from the "incense country" was captured and safely caged.

Pictures of Ibis are also seen. These were doubtless kept as sacred birds, as they were dedicated to the god Thoth, and their bodies were mummified and preserved in tombs. Hawks were revered



BIRD TRAP.

1. BIRD FLYING INTO OPEN TRAP.
2. BIRD CAUGHT IN TRAP.
   From an ancient painting.
3. MODERN BIRD TRAP FROM ELEPHANTINE.

in the same way, as being sacred to Horus.

The title of "Keeper of the Pelicans' House" is found in inscriptions of the XIXth Dynasty, and there are also pictures of quantities of Cranes. These graceful birds were presumably kept as pets, and Erman describes an ancient Egyptian picture the subject of which is "Giving Drink to the Cranes." Among the innumerable representations of offerings to the dead, there are few that do not include among the variety of eatables, a neatly trussed and probably well-roasted goose or duck; while the "formula of offering" alludes constantly, among the rest of the lavish gifts, to "thousands of geese." At all the great festivals, enormous quantities of oxen, geese, bread and cakes, wine and beer, were sent as offerings to the temples. There is a record of a ten days' feast in honour of Ptah-Sokari-Osiris, held at the temple of Medinet Habu, in which 246 geese and other birds appear in the long list of donations. To keep up the constant large supply of birds incubators were used from very early

times. The eggs are placed in little houses kept at a high temperature, in which a man lives, turning them till they are hatched.

The cooking of birds seems to have been a simple process, and to have generally consisted of spitting the fowl on a wooden skewer and holding it over an open fire till done, a fine grass or fibre brush being used to remove the smuts.

The giant reeds, the flowering rushes, and feathery papyrus which spread in almost impenetrable masses in the marshes, formed the covert for the wild birds. The exquisite blue lotus, now, alas! extinct in Egypt, in those days floated on the calm surface of the water. The Egyptian of old had an intense love of flowers.

In the temple services, funeral ceremonies, royal banquets, and in fact everywhere that it was possible to make use of flowers, they were sure to be seen, and every Egyptian who could afford it had his garden. They were, as far as we can tell, formal in design, neatly divided by low walls into plots and walks, and screened from the sand-laden winds of the desert

by a tall hedge of palms and mimosa trees, where innumerable birds built their nests safely among the thick branches. The gardens were full of precious plants, shrubs, and trees, some brought from far-distant lands, and were watered continually and tended with the greatest care. In most of them there was a large tank or pond, and near this a shady arbour, where the owner could rest and amuse himself by watching his favourite white goose and other pet water birds that were kept there. How well we can imagine the pretty scene!—perhaps a Demoiselle, a violet gallinule, an ibis, a flamingo or two, a solemn old pelican, and a dainty egret, and perhaps, too, some rare specimens from foreign countries, sunning themselves on the margin of the pool or playing among the lotus flowers in the water. Fruit trees were largely grown, and among them figs, the fruit of which monkeys were sometimes trained to gather for their masters.

Vineyards covered many acres, and the vines were carefully cultivated. To these orchards and vineyards of course sparrows

and other garden thieves were constantly tempted to come, and the flocks of these marauders were continually being scared away with yells and much shouting, backed up with slings and stones!

In that land of glare and heat, shade is the greatest boon; therefore the old Egyptian appreciated shady trees, the sycamore, perhaps, best of all. He

Fan.

planted them wherever possible, and "that his soul (like a bird) might sit on the boughs of the tree that he had planted, and enjoy the cool air in the shade of the sycamore," was one of his most fervent prayers.

Figures of birds, wings, and feathers were constantly introduced into the dress, insignia, and ornaments of Egypt. A fan composed of a single large feather constituted one of the highest badges of rank and honour, "Fan-bearers" being a title only given to the most exalted persons in

favour at court. Exquisite faïence, glass, enamel, and gold ornaments and clasps were made in the form of wings and birds; and what could be more original and beautiful in design than the "Mut"

Vulture Head-dress.

head-dress worn by the queens, so cunningly contrived out of a vulture, with head erect and drooping wings?

We also see from existing models and drawings that the prows of boats were often ornamented with carved and painted birds.

No one who has looked at the hieroglyphic writings can have helped remarking the artistic way in which the signs that take the form of birds are drawn. During the Early Empire they were even better than in the later periods.

In an inscription on an early mummy-case which we found in the Gebel Goubat el Hawa, the birds' signs are drawn in a wonderfully painstaking way. The owl (Em), for instance, whenever it occurs, is carefully coloured with a brown back and neatly speckled breast ; while the same letter in a late Ptolemaic *cartonnage* found in the same hill is merely indicated by clever but roughly done lines.

The following are birds' signs in general use :—

There is little doubt what each sign is meant to represent, except in the case of the U, which is still doubtful. It might be the young of a sand-grouse, partridge, or quail, but it cannot be a chicken, as the domestic Chanticleer and his mate have never yet been discovered in the pictures of the early dynasties, and were not known in Egypt till after the Persian invasion.

But not only in their daily life and in their writing did the ancient Egyptians give a prominent place to the feathered tribe. Even in their religion an honoured position is the portion of the birds.

In every funeral picture we see the *ba* or soul of the dead, hovering, in the form of a bird with a human face, over the closely bound and embalmed body.

Ra, the personification of the "Rising Sun," has the head of a hawk, surmounted by the disc and Uræus; Horus has a hawk's head, surmounted by the "double crown"; and Quebhsennuf, among the four Amenti, is represented with a hawk's head.

Thoth, the god of learning and "Scribe of the Gods," has the head of an ibis. His quaint figure is well known, pen and tablet in hand, taking notes of the trial of some departed soul, whose heart is being weighed in the balance against truth, truth being typified by a feather.

The "Benu," the sacred bird, is the emblem of resurrection. It is supposed to have risen out of a flaming tree, and the song it sang was so exquisitely sweet that Ra was compelled to listen.

Mut, the Great Mother, takes the form of a vulture. The goddess Nekhebit too, the patron of the South, the seat of whose worship was at El Kab, is often represented as a vulture.

Wings were given as an additional dignity to the Sacred Uræus Snake, and more conspicuous than all is the great sun disc (the *hor-behutet*), with protecting outspread wings, sculptured over the entrance of almost every temple and pylon in the land.

Thus parallel with the lives of

the inhabitants of Egypt, from the earliest days of the dim distant past, we may trace the existence and the lives of the Egyptian birds, even less altered through the long years by outward circumstance than those of their human compatriots.

Various nations have ruled in Egypt, and numberless strangers have sojourned in the country, while countless generations of swallows have built their snug nests among the capitals and cornices of the great temples, where the followers of many creeds have worshipped. And still to-day, as through all these ages, we find among these people faith in a great and ever-bountiful Creator, who cares for the humblest of His works.

This belief was ever the keynote of the religion of the Egyptians, and was beautifully expressed in one of the verses of the old "Hymn to Amen." For many thousand years the music of that hymn must have mingled with the songs of the birds from the "Northern Sea" to beyond the "Golden Stone"

and the farthest boundaries of ancient Egypt.

"He maketh the herb for the cattle,
And the fruit tree for mankind;
He giveth life to the fish in the river
And to the bird under heaven;
He giveth life to the being in the egg,
And preserves the son of the worm;
He created that whereon the fly lives,
The worm, and the fleas, as many as there are;
He creates what the mice need in their holes,
And preserves the birds on all the trees."

—*Hymn to Amen.*

Bennu bird. The Soul of Osiris.

LIST OF BIRDS.

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Andalusian Hemipode.	Turnix sylvatica.	....	Migratory.	Fields, open country.	Very rare. Has been found in Lower Egypt.
Quail (Common).	Coturnix communis.	Semman.	Migratory.	Clover fields and other cultivated land.	Common everywhere in Egypt in spring, between first week in March and end of April—a few remain to breed.
Cholmley's See-see Partridge.	Ammo perdix cholmleyi.	....	Resident.	Rocky desert.	Rather rare, but ranging through Egypt and Nubia, perhaps more common between the Nile and the Red Sea, than the Western desert.
Singed Sand-Grouse.	Pterocles exustus.	Gutta.	Resident.	Desert and among dry Halfa grass.	Common in Egypt and Nubia, specially perhaps near Silsiles, Kom Ombo, and the Fayum.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Senegal Sand-Grouse.	Pterocles senegallus.	Gutta.	Resident.	Desert.	Not very common, though found throughout Egypt and sometimes in Nubia.
Coronetted Sand-Grouse.	Pterocles coronatus.	....	Resident.	Desert.	Rare. Oftenest met with in Nubia. Scarcely ever in North of Middle Egypt.
Schimper's Pigeon.	Columba schimperi.	Hamam.	Resident.	Rocky places and near villages.	Very common everywhere—both in Egypt and Nubia.
Rock-Dove.	Columba livia.	Hamana-grak.	Resident.	Rocky districts and villages.	Common, though less so than C. chimperi, found throughout Egypt and Nubia.
Palm-Dove.	Turtur senegalensis.	Gimery.	Resident.	Every palm grove and village.	Common in the Nile valley to the Second Cataract.
Turtle-Dove.	Turtur auritus.	....	Migratory.	Bushes, gardens, and among ruins.	Constantly met with everywhere in the spring.
White-bellied Turtle-Dove.	Turtur roseogriseus.	....	Migratory.	....	A very rare bird both in Egypt and Nubia.
Sandy-coloured Turtle-Dove.	Turtur isabellinus.	....	Migratory.	Among scrub and bushes on banks of lakes and river.	Rather rare, chiefly found in Nubia, Upper Egypt, and the Fayum.

Common Coot.	Fulica atra.	....	Resident.	Lakes, open water.	Found both in Egypt and Nubia, but in much greater numbers in the Delta.
Crested Coot.	Fulica cristata.	....	Resident.	Lakes and river.	Rather rare, but found sometimes both in Egypt and Nubia.
Allen's Gallinule.	Porphyrio alleni.	....	Resident.	Lakes and marshes.	Rather scarce. Found in Lower Egypt.
Purple Gallinule.	Porphyrio porphyrio.	Diksullani.	Resident.	Lakes, among reeds and shallow pools.	Common in the Fayum, but rare elsewhere.
Moor Hen.	Gallinula chloropus.	Misterawy.	Resident.	Lakes, marshes and canals	Common in Lower Egypt, the Fayum and Delta.
Water Rail.	Rallus aquaticus.	....	Migratory.	Marshy places among reeds.	Met with in considerable numbers in winter in the Delta and Fayum.
Spotted Crake.	Porzana maruetta.	....	Resident.	Among thick reeds in the marshes.	Fairly common in Lower Egypt.
Baillon's Crake.	Porzana intermedia.	....	Migratory.	Marshy places and thick scrub.	Rare, found sometimes in the Delta.
Corn-Crake.	Crex crex.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land. Fields.	Rather rare, found sometimes in Lower Egypt.
Great Crested Grebe.	Podicipes cristatus.	....	Resident.	Marshes and lakes.	Rather rare, found in the Fayum and lakes of the Delta.
Red-necked Grebe.	Podicipes griseigena.	....	Migratory.	Marshes and lakes.	A rare winter visitor to the Delta.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Eared Grebe.	Podicipes auritus.	....	Migratory.	Marshes and lakes.	Found in the Delta and Fayum and other marshy places in Lower Egypt, but is rare.
Little Grebe.	Podicipes fluviatilis.	....	Resident.	Marshes and lakes.	Met with constantly in the Delta and Fayum ; very rare on the river.
Red-throated Diver.	Colymbus septentrionalis.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast.	Has once been found in the Delta in winter.
Richardson's Skua.	Stercorarius crepidatus.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast.	Very rare, has been seen near Alexandria and off the coast.
Great Black-headed Gull.	Larus ichthyaëtus.	Hin.	Resident.	Sea coast, lakes and river.	Fairly numerous both in Egypt and Nubia on the river, also in the Fayum and Delta, and the Red Sea.
Black-headed Gull.	Larus ridibundus.	....	Resident.	River and lakes.	Very rare in Upper Egypt but numerous in Lower Egypt.
Mediterranean Black-headed Gull.	Larus melanocephalus.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast and salt lakes.	Found in small numbers in the north of the Delta.

Great Black-backed Gull.	Larus marinus.	....	Resident.	Sea coast.	Rare, found occasionally on the Mediterranean coast.
Lesser Black-backed Gull.	Larus fuscus.	Goka.	Resident.	River, lakes and marshes.	Found both in Egypt and Nubia and is not uncommon.
Common Gull.	Larus canus.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast and marshes.	Rather rare; found in the Delta in winter.
Herring-Gull.	Larus argentatus.	....	Resident.	River and sea coast.	Fairly plentiful on the coast, and in Lower Egypt; found also in small numbers in Upper Egypt and Nubia.
Yellow-footed Herring-Gull.	Larus cachinnans.	Norassa.	Resident.	Sea coast, lakes and river.	Common. Found both in Upper and Lower Egypt, the Fayum and the Delta.
Little Gull.	Larus minutus.	....	....	Lakes and marshes.	Not very common. Found in the Delta and Fayum.
Slender-billed Gull.	Larus gelastes.	....	Resident.	Lakes and river.	Not very numerous, but found in Lower Egypt, and once or twice in Upper Egypt.
White-eyed Gull.	Larus leucophthalmus.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast.	Rare, met with on the Mediterranean coast occasionally.
Scissor-billed Tern.	Rhynchops flavirostris.	Abou Mokas.	Migratory.	River and its banks.	Fairly plentiful during migration, specially in Upper Egypt.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range
Caspian Tern.	Hydro-progne caspia.	Abou Belaha.	Migratory.	River and lakes.	Not uncommon in the Fayum and Lower Egypt and in small numbers further south. (Said to breed on the Zambesi.)
Gull-billed Tern.	Gelochelidon anglica.	....	Resident.	River and lakes.	Found chiefly in Lower Egypt and the Fayum, though it occasionally ranges as far south as Aswan.
Sandwich Tern.	Sterna cantiaca.	....	Migratory.	Marshes and river.	Found in Lower Egypt, but is rather rare on the river.
Swift Tern.	Sterna bergii.	....	Resident.	River and lakes.	Fairly common on the river in Lower Egypt, and in the Delta.
Allied Tern.	Sterna media.	....	Resident.	Lakes, river and sea coast.	Met with in Lower Egypt, where it is fairly common.
Common Tern.	Sterna fluviatilis.	....	Migratory.	Sea shore.	Found sometimes in winter on the coast of the Delta.
Arctic Tern.	Sterna macrura.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast.	Found sometimes on the coast of the Mediterranean.

Little Tern.	Sterna minuta.	....	Resident.	Lakes and river.	Rather rare, but found in the Fayum and Delta and also on the river in Lower Egypt, both in summer and winter.
White-winged Tern.	Hydrochelidon leucoptera.	....	Resident.	River and lakes.	Common in Lower Egypt, Delta and Fayum, ranging through the rest of Egypt and Nubia in small numbers.
Black Tern.	Hydrochelidon nigra.	....	Migratory.	River.	Rare, has been found on the river in small numbers.
Whiskered Tern.	Hydrochelidon hybrida.	....	Resident.	River and lakes.	Rather rare, but found both in Upper and Lower Egypt.
Kuhl's Shearwater.	Puffinus kuhli.	Oum Gournaya.	Migratory.	Sea coast and salt marshes.	Very rare. Found in the Delta occasionally in summer and autumn.
Woodcock.	Scolopax rusticula.	....	Migratory.	Among bushes and groves of trees.	Very rare. Has been found in the Delta.
Common Snipe.	Gallinago gallinago.	Kennes.	Migratory.	Marshy places, lakes and canal banks.	Common in the Delta in winter ; found also, though much more rarely, further up the river, and in Nubia.
Jack Snipe.	Gallinago gallinula.	....	Migratory.	Marshes and lakes.	Common in the Delta where covert is suitable, and has been found in Middle Egypt, but is rare there.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Solitary Snipe.	Gallinago major.	....	Migratory.	Marshes and lakes.	Found in the Delta between December and May, but is rather rare.
Painted Snipe.	Rostratula capensis.	....	Resident.	Marshes, reedy banks of lakes, pools and canals.	Fairly plentiful in the Fayum and Delta, sometimes also found near river in other parts of Egypt and Nubia.
Black-tailed Godwit.	Limosa limosa.	Bigueka Sallani.	Migratory.	Shallow back waters and pools in the sand.	Met with both in Upper Egypt and Nubia, but much more frequently in Lower Egypt and the Fayum.
Avocet.	Recurvirostra avocetta.	....	Migratory.	Lakes, river and sea coast.	Rather rare.
Little Stint.	Tringa minuta.	....	Migratory.	Sand banks, marshes.	In places fairly abundant in both Egypt and Nubia.
Temminck's Stint.	Tringa temmincki.	....	Resident.	Marshes and banks.	Not very common anywhere, but ranges through East and Nubia.
Curlew Sandpiper.	Tringa subarquata.	....	Migratory.	Sand banks and shallows.	Rather scarce and rare.

Sanderling.	Tringa arenaria.	....	Migratory.	Sand banks and shallows.	Only in Lower Egypt, and rare even there.
Dunlin.	Tringa alpina.	....	Migratory.	Sea coasts.	Rare.
Red-Shank.	Totanus calidris.	....	Resident.	Lakes and marshes.	Very common in the Delta, very rare on the river.
Dusky Red-Shank.	Totanus fuscus.	....	Resident.	River banks and shallows.	Delta scarce, but found here and there in Egypt and Nubia.
Green-Shank.	Totanus canescens.	....	Resident.	River banks, shallow pools.	Rather common all along the river, but rare in the Delta.
Marsh-Sand-piper.	Totanus stagnatilis.	....	Resident.	Shallows and sand banks.	Common in the Delta, but rare further up the Nile.
Green Sand-piper.	Totanus ochropus.	....	Resident.	Canals and pools.	Found everywhere on the river in both Egypt and Nubia.
Common Sandpiper.	Tringoides hypoleucus.	....	Resident.	River banks and canals.	Common everywhere.
Black-winged Stilt.	Himantopus himantopus.	Abou magazal.	Resident.	Pools near villages.	Met with everywhere, but more frequently in the Delta.
Grey Plover.	Squatarola helvetica.	....	Migratory.	Marshes and flat open country.	Rare, found in the Delta in winter.
Golden Plover.	Charadrius pluvialis.	....	Migratory.	Wild open country and shallow marshes.	Fairly abundant in winter in the Delta.
Dotterel.	Eudromias morinellus.	....	Migratory.	Open sandy country and sea shore.	Very rare. Has been found near the Red Sea and also in the Fayum.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Asiatic Dotterel.	Eudromias asiaticus.	....	Migratory.	Sea shore, sandy wastes.	Very scarce. Found occasionally on the shores of Mediterranean and Red Seas.
White-tailed Plover.	Chettusia leucura.	....	Resident.	Sand and mud banks of river and marshes.	Not very rare either in Egypt or Nubia, though more common in the Delta and Fayum.
Lapwing or Peewit.	Vanellus vanellus.	Tuktak Chamy.	Migratory.	Open cuntry, sandy marshes.	Fairly common from October to April in Lower Egypt, much rarer South.
Spur-winged Plover	Hoploterus spinosus.	Zic-zac.	Resident.	River banks and pools.	Very common, found throughout Egypt and Nubia.
Ringed Plover.	Ægialitis hiaticola.	....	Migratory.	Open country.	Very rare. Has been found in Lower Egypt.
Little Ringed Plover.	Ægialitis dubia.	....	Resident.	Marshes and river banks, also on the edge of the desert.	Common everywhere, both in Egypt and Nubia.
Kentish Plover.	Ægialitis alexandrina.	....	Resident.	Sandy banks in river and shallow pools.	Found in Egypt and Nubia, very abundant some years.
Great Sand-Plover.	Ægialitis geoffroyi.	....	Resident.	Sandy flats near lakes and sea.	Rare. Met with occasionally in the Delta.

African Sand-Plover.	Ægialitis pecuaria.	....	Resident.	River sand banks, shores of lakes and pools.	Fairly abundant in Egypt and Nubia, though more so some years.
Mongolian Sand-Plover.	Ægialitis mongolica.	....	Migratory.	Marshy lakes and sea shore.	Very rare, said to have been found near Red Sea coast or Bitter Lakes.
Oyster-catcher.	Hæmatopus ostralegus.	....	Migratory.	Sea shore, sandy salt marshes.	Very rare. Found sometimes on the coast of the Mediterranean and Red Sea.
Curlew.	Numenius arquatus.	....	Resident.	Banks of river pools and marshes.	Ranges throughout Egypt and Nubia, but is more common in the Fayum and Delta.
Slender-billed Curlew.	Numenius tenuirostris.	....	Resident.	Lakes, sandy shores of marshes.	Chiefly found in Lower Egypt, but has been seen further south occasionally.
Whimbrel.	Numenius phæopus.	....	Migratory.	Banks of river, sandy back waters.	Found in the winter in Lower Egypt, and one or two other places further south, but is rare.
Collared Pratincole.	Glareola pratincola.	Abou el Rusr.	Migratory.	River sand banks and edge of desert.	Common in Egypt and Nubia in summer.
Black-winged Pratincole.	Glareola melanoptera.	....	Migratory.	Fields and shores of lakes.	Rather rare. Found in the Fayum and Middle Egypt, and occasionally in Upper Egypt and Nubia.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Stone-Curlew (Norfolk Plover).	Œdicnemus crepitans.	Kirawan.	Resident.	Sandy banks of river, desert, sparse scrub and old walls.	Fairly numerous throughout Egypt and Nubia.
Black-headed Plover or Crocodile-bird	Pluvianus ægyptius.	....	Resident.	Banks of the river, both cultivated and sandy.	Very common, specially in Upper Egypt.
Cream-coloured Courser.	Cursorius gallicus.	....	Resident.	Desert and wild sandy places among dry Halfa grass.	Ranges through Egypt and Nubia, but is not common anywhere.
Little Bustard.	Otis tetrax.	....	Resident.	Desert, open country.	Very rare. Sometimes found in Lower Egypt.
Houbara Bustard.	Houbara undulata.	....	Resident.	Desert, generally some distance from the river.	Sometimes met with both in Egypt and Nubia, specially desert side of the Fayum.
Arabian Bustard.	Eupodotis arabs.	....	Migratory.	Desert.	Very rare. Has been found in Egypt.
Common Crane.	Grus grus.	Ghernouk.	Migratory.	Rivers and lakes.	Common during migration between October and March.
Demoiselle Crane.	Anthropoides virgo.	Laklak.	Resident.	Rivers and lakes.	Very rare.

White Stork.	Ciconia alba.	Abou anis. Billerdj.	Migratory.	Sand banks and edge of the desert.	Common everywhere during migration.
Black Stork.	Ciconia nigra.	....	Resident.	Sand banks and islets.	Rare—in Egypt and Nubia.
Spoonbill.	Platalea leucerodia.	Abou malaqa.	Resident.	River and sand banks and lakes.	Plentiful everywhere.
Sacred Ibis.	Ibis æthiopica.	....	....	Marshes and river banks.	Almost extinct in Egypt and Nubia. Found in Soudan.
Glossy Ibis.	Ibis falcinellus.	Herres.	Resident.	River and lakes.	Very rare.
African Wood-Ibis.	Pseudotantalus ibis.	....	....	River.	Almost unknown in Egypt, and very rare in Nubia.
Common Heron.	Ardea cinerea.	Balachun.	Resident.	River and lakes.	Common everywhere, specially in marshy places.
Purple Heron.	Phoyx purpurea.	Hagaf.	Resident.	River and lakes.	Found chiefly in Lower Egypt, and the Fayum.
Great White Heron.	Herodias alba.	Kyti.	Resident.	Lakes.	Delta and Fayum.
Buff-backed Heron.	Bubulcus lucidus.	Abou guirdan.	Resident.	Lakes and cultivated land.	Delta and Upper and Lower Egypt ; fairly common.
Squacco-Heron.	Ardeola ralloides.	Uak.	Resident.	River banks.	Rather rare everywhere.
Night-Heron.	Nycticorax nycticorax.	Uak sagon.	Resident.	Palm groves and trees.	Common everywhere.
Little Egret.	Garzetta garzetta.	....	Resident.	River banks ; shallow pools.	Common everywhere (it has no crest before April).

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Bittern.	Botaurus stellaris.	....	Resident.	Lakes, river and canals.	Rather rare in Upper Egypt and Nubia; common in Lower Egypt.
Little Bittern.	Ardetta minuta.	....	Resident.	River banks.	Very rare everywhere.
Mute Swan.	Cygnus olor.	....	Migratory.	Lakes near the sea.	A rare winter visitor to the Delta.
Whooper.	Cygnus musicus.	....	Migratory.	Lakes, marshes near the sea.	Found on rare occasions in the Delta.
Egyptian Goose.	Chenalopex ægyptiacus.	Wis.	Resident.	Lakes, marshes, river banks.	Very plentiful. Found everywhere in Egypt and Nubia.
White-fronted Goose.	Anser albifrons.	Wis.	Migratory.	Lakes, marshes and river.	Very common in winter in the Delta, rarer further south.
Lesser White-fronted Goose.	Anser erythropus.	....	Migratory.	Lakes, marshes.	Rare, found in the Delta in winter.
Brent-Goose.	Branta bernicla.	....	Migratory.	Lakes and marshes.	Very rare, occasionally seen in the Delta.
Red-breasted Goose.	Branta ruficollis.	....	Migratory.	Lakes and marshes.	Very rare, has been found in Egypt.

Sheld-duck.	Tadorna cornuta.	Charaman.	Resident.	Lakes and river.	Rather rare. Found in Lower Egypt and the Fayum.
Ruddy Sheld-duck.	Tadorna rutila.	Abou Ferona.	Resident.	Lakes and marshes.	Fairly plentiful on the lakes of the Delta and Fayum. Much rarer on the river.
Shoveler.	Spatula clypeata.	Hick.	Resident.	Shallow back waters and river banks.	Common everywhere, both in Egypt and Nubia.
Common Wild Duck or Mallard.	Anas boscas.	Kodari.	Resident.	Lakes and river.	Found throughout Egypt and Nubia. Plentiful sometimes, at others rare.
Gadwall.	Chaulelasmus streperus.	Batah esshayib.	Resident.	Lakes, open water.	Fairly plentiful in both Egypt and Nubia, more so in the Delta and Fayum.
Pintail.	Dafila acuta.	Balbul.	Resident.	Lakes, larger canals and river.	Plentiful in Lower Egypt, and in smaller numbers in Middle Egypt.
Wigeon.	Mareca penelope.	Sarwai.	Migratory.	Lakes and canals.	Found in winter in the Delta and Lower Egypt, very rare elsewhere.
Marbled Teal.	Marmaronetta angustirostris.	Miniet.	Resident.	Lakes and pools.	Plentiful in the Fayum, but is rare elsewhere.
Teal.	Nettion crecca.	Sharishar.	Resident.	Canals, pools and shallows.	Found both in Egypt and Nubia, at times very plentiful, and again at others very scarce.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality	Range.
Garganey-Teal.	Querquedula circia.	Arrach.	Resident.	River and canals.	Fairly common both in Egypt and Nubia.
Pochard.	Nyroca ferina.	....	Resident.	Lakes, open water.	Found everywhere, more common in the Delta.
Ferruginous Duck.	Nyroca africana.	....	Resident.	Lakes.	Abundant in the Delta and Fayum. Very rare south of Lower Egypt.
Scaup Duck.	Fuligula marila.	....	Migratory.	Marshes near the sea.	Met with on rare occasions in the Delta in winter.
Tufted Duck.	Fuligula fuligula.	Abou Amamah.	Resident.	Lakes, open water.	Found in the Fayum and Lower Egypt.
Velvet-Scoter.	Œdemia fusca.	....	Migratory.	Lakes and marshes.	Very rare, has been seen in the Delta in winter.
White-headed Duck.	Erismatura leucocephala.	....	Resident.	Lakes, marshes.	Found in the Delta, but rarely seen in other parts of Egypt.
Flamingo.	Phœnicopterus roseus.	Gemel fil Bahr.	Resident.	Marshes and lakes.	Abundant in the lakes in the Delta, found also in Fayum, very rare on the river.

Dalmatian Pelican.	Pelecanus crispus.	Bagah.	Resident.	Lakes, sand banks, pools.	Common everywhere in Egypt and Nubia, especially in the Fayum in spring, and on the river in autumn.
White Pelican.	Pelecanus onocrotalus.	Abou Karbah.	Resident.	Lakes, river pools, and sand banks.	Found everywhere in Egypt and Nubia as P. crispus.
Lesser Pelican.	Pelecanus roseus.	....	Resident.	Pools, lakes and river banks.	Rather scarce, found chiefly in Lower and Middle Egypt.
Masked Gannet.	Sula cyanops.	....	Migratory.	Sea coast.	Shores of the Red Sea.
Cormorant.	Phalacrocorax carbo.	Agag.	Resident.	Lakes and river.	Abundant in the Fayum in summer. Also found on the river both in Egypt and Nubia.
Little Cormorant.	Phalacrocorax pygmæus.	....	Resident.	Lakes. Sandy pools.	Not very common, found in Lower Egypt principally in winter, also in the Fayum.
Long-tailed Cormorant.	Phalacrocorax africanus.	....	....	Lakes and pools, canals and bushy islands.	Plentiful in the Fayum in summer; very rare on the river.
Golden Eagle.	Aquila chrysaëtus.	Nisr.	Migratory.	Rocks and desert.	Very rare — sometimes found in Lower Egypt.
Imperial Eagle.	Aquila heliaca.	....	Migratory.	Desert, rocky districts.	Sometimes found in Lower Egypt in the winter, almost unknown south of Cairo.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Tawny Eagle.	Aquila rapax.	....	Migratory.	....	Extremely rare in both Egypt and Nubia.
Spotted Eagle.	Aquila maculata.	....	Resident.	River banks, lakes.	Common in Egypt, rarer in Nubia.
Bonelli's Eagle.	Nisaëtus fasciatus.	....	Migratory.	....	Very rare, but met with occasionally.
Booted Eagle.	Nisaëtus pennatus.	....	Migratory.	Trees and fields.	Common at times during the summer both in Egypt and Nubia.
White-tailed Eagle.	Haliaëtus albicilla.	Okab.	Resident.	Marshes and lakes.	Rare—only found in Lower Egypt.
Short-toed Eagle.	Circaëtus gallicus.	....	Resident.	Rocks and mountains.	Fairly common, both in Egypt and Nubia.
Osprey.	Pandion haliaëtus.	Mansouri.	Resident.	River banks, lakes.	Common in both Egypt and Nubia — specially in the Fayum.
Common Buzzard.	Buteo vulgaris.	....	Migratory.	Edge of desert, wooded places.	Rare—found chiefly in Lower Egypt.
Long-legged Buzzard.	Buteo ferox.	....	Resident.	Cultivated land, and rough grass.	Fairly plentiful, specially in Nubia.

African or Desert-Buzzard.	Buteo desertorum.	....	....	....	Sometimes, though rarely, found in Egypt.
Honey-Buzzard.	Pernis apivorus.	....	....	....	Occasionally found, but it is very rare.
Common Kite.	Milvus milvus.	....	....	....	Very rare indeed.
Yellow-billed Kite.	Milvus ægyptius.	Hédayeh.	Resident.	Banks of rivers, towns, villages.	Common everywhere.
Black Kite.	Milvus korschun.	Hedaya-hasued.	Resident.	Banks of rivers, towns, villages.	Fairly common, but rarer than M. ægyptius.
Kestrel.	Cerchneis tinnunculus.	Sakreah-mar balad.	Resident.	Palm groves, edge of the desert, and wherever locusts are to be found.	Common everywhere, perhaps more so in Lower than in Upper Egypt and Nubia.
Lesser Kestrel.	Cerchneis cenchris.	....	Resident.	Among trees, on edge of desert, &c.	Plentiful everywhere, specially in Lower Egypt in autumn and spring.
Merlin.	Falco æsalon.	....	Resident.	Sont trees and woods.	Common in Lower and Middle Egypt—rare in Nubia.
Red-footed Falcon.	Falco vespertinus.	....	Resident.	Cultivated land, corn and durrah fields.	Common in the Delta, rarer in Upper Egypt, very scarce in Nubia.
Red-naped Falcon.	Falco babylonicus.	....	Resident.	Ruins, mountains and palm groves.	Fairly plentiful in Egypt and Nubia.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Barbary Falcon.	Falco barbarus.	....	Resident.	River banks, trees on edge of desert.	Rather rare both in Egypt and Nubia.
Lanner Falcon.	Falco feldeggi.	Shahin.	Resident.	River banks and near lakes.	Common everywhere, specially near the Pyramids in the breeding season.
Peregrine Falcon.	Falco peregrinus.	....	Resident.	River banks, edge of desert.	Fairly plentiful, but much commoner in the Delta in winter.
Saker Falcon.	Falco sacer.	Saker el hor.	Resident.	Rocks, desert, and river banks.	Found both in Egypt and Nubia, but is rare.
Sooty Falcon.	Falco concolor.	....	Migratory.	Mountains, shore of Red Sea.	Very rare.
Hobby.	Falco subbuteo.	....	Resident.	Edge of desert and cultivated land.	Rare everywhere, often found in the Delta.
Goshawk.	Astur palumbarius.	....	Migratory.	Sont trees, river banks.	Very rare, never been found in Nubia.
Sparrow-Hawk.	Accipiter nisus.	Baz.	Resident.	River banks, rocks and ruins.	Common both in Egypt and Nubia.
Red-faced Goshawk.	Melierax gabar.	....	Migratory.	....	Extremely rare.

Black-shouldered Kite.	Elanus cæruleus.	Sakre el Abiad.	Resident.	Trees, and near cultivated land.	Common in Lower and Middle Egypt, much rarer further south.
Hen-Harrier.	Circus cyaneus.	....	Migratory.	Sont trees and bushy ground.	Found in Middle Egypt, rare elsewhere.
Long-tailed Harrier.	Circus macrurus.	....	Resident.	Near villages and groves of trees.	Fairly plentiful everywhere.
Marsh-Harrier.	Circus æruginosus.	....	Resident.	Lakes, and near canals and pools.	Common in Fayum and Delta, rare elsewhere.
Montagu's Harrier.	Circus cineraceus.	....	Migratory.	Edge of desert, river banks.	Very rare.
Egyptian Vulture.	Neophron percnopterus.	Rakhameh	Resident.	Desert, river banks; near villages.	Common both in Egypt and Nubia.
Griffon-Vulture.	Gyps fulvus.	Nissr-kebir.	Resident.	Desert, &c., wherever there is carrion.	Common in Egypt and Nubia, rare in the Delta.
Black Vulture.	Vultur monachus.	....	Resident.	Sand banks in river.	Certainly rare.
Sociable Vulture.	Otogyps auricularis.	....	Resident.	River banks, desert.	Very rare in Egypt, more plentiful in Nubia and further south.
Southern Bearded-Vulture.	Gypaëtus ossifragus.	....	Resident.	Desert hills, and shores of Red Sea.	Rare, found occasionally both in Egypt and Nubia.
Eagle-Owl.	Bubo ignavus.	....	Migratory.	Ruins, rocky hills.	Extremely rare.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Egyptian Eagle-Owl.	Bubo ascalaphus.	"Bumba gebir," or "Buma hamna bi urun."	Resident.	Rocks, old quarries and ruins.	Egypt and Nubia, not very common.
Long-eared Owl.	Asio otus.	Abu el oudenain.	Resident.	Rocks and ruins.	Fairly common in Egypt—rarer in Nubia.
Short-eared Owl.	Asio accipitrinus.	....	Migratory.	Fields and trees, rough grass.	Common in the winter everywhere.
Scops-Owl.	Scops giu.	....	Resident.	Rocky places.	Rare, found in Egypt and Nubia.
Tengmalm's Owl.	Nyctala tengmalmi.	....		....	Of extremely doubtful occurrence.
Southern Little Owl.	Carine glaux.	Om er guaik.	Resident.	Ruins, rocks, trees, and river banks.	Common everywhere both in Egypt and Nubia.
Tawny Owl.	Syrnium aluco.	....	Resident.	Thick trees and ruins.	Very rare — only found in Lower Egypt.
Barn-Owl.	Strix flammea.	Buma Beda.	Resident.	Ruins, ancient tombs, thick trees.	Fairly plentiful everywhere.

Egyptian Swift.	Cypselus murinus.	....	Resident.	Rocky places in the river and desert.	Abundant both in Egypt and Nubia, in Lower Egypt they are in greater numbers after April.
Common Swift.	Cypselus apus.	....	Migratory.	River and banks.	Extremely rare.
White-rumped Swift.	Cypselus affinis.	....	Migratory.	Buildings and rocks near the river.	Said to have been found in Egypt, but is very rare.
Alpine Swift.	Cypselus melba.	....	Migratory.	Desert mountains.	Sometimes met with in Egypt and Nubia during migration, very rare.
Little Grey Swift.	Tachornis parva.	....	Resident.	Rocky places near the river.	A very rare bird, found occasionally in Upper Egypt and Nubia.
Goat-sucker.	Caprimulgus europæus.	....	Migratory.	River banks.	Met with during migration in Egypt and Nubia.
Egyptian Goat-sucker.	Caprimulgus ægyptius.	Bakkak	Resident.	Sandy river banks, generally where Hafa-grass grows.	Ranges through Egypt and Nubia, found in greater numbers in April and the autumn.
Little Green Bee-eater.	Merops viridis.	A Huader, Saggizal.	Resident.	Trees and palm groves.	Common in Upper and Middle Egypt.
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.	Merops persicus.	A Huader, kebis.	Migratory.	Trees and hedges and gardens.	Abundant everywhere during migration, a few remain to breed in Egypt.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Common Bee-eater.	Merops apiaster.	....	Migratory.	River banks and trees.	Common in spring and autumn in Egypt and Nubia during migration, a few flocks breed in Lower Egypt.
Black and White Kingfisher.	Ceryle rudis.	Saggad es Samuke.	Resident.	River and lakes and pools.	Common everywhere in Upper and Lower Egypt and Nubia.
Common Kingfisher.	Alcedo ispida.	....	Resident.	Canals and marshes and lakes.	Common in the Delta, rare elsewhere.
Little Indian Kingfisher.	Alcedo bengalensis.	....	Migratory.	River and lakes.	Rare, but met with now and then in Egypt and Nubia.
Hoopoe.	Upupa epops.	Hout Hout	Resident.	Mud banks and near villages.	The whole Nile valley.
Roller.	Coracias garrulus.	Zeturney.	Migratory.	Among trees and brushwood.	Egypt and Nubia during migration.
Cuckoo.	Cuculus canorus.	....	Migratory.	Near gardens and shady trees.	Found both in Upper and Lower Egypt during migration in spring and autumn.
Great Spotted Cuckoo.	Coccystes glandarius.	....	Resident.	Clumps of sont, trees and shrubs.	Fairly numerous both in Egypt and Nubia.

Bronze Cuckoo.	Chrysococcyx cupreus.	....	....	Groves of trees.	Extremely rare in Nubia, sometimes found in Northern Sudan.
Lark-heeled Cuckoo.	Centropus senegalensis.	....	....	Groves of trees, and among rushes.	Rare everywhere except in Lower Egypt.
Wryneck.	Iynx torquilla.	....	Migratory.	Bushes and thin scrub.	Found in Lower Egypt during migration, and sometimes, though rarely, in Upper Egypt.
Bush-Babbler.	Argya acaciæ.	....	Resident.	Thick bushes and sont trees on river bank.	Fairly plentiful in Nubia, rare elsewhere.
Black-headed Brown Bulbul	Pycnonotus arsinoë.	Bulbul.	Resident.	Gardens, among trees near villages.	Met with often in Nubia and further south. Very rare below First Cataract.
Yellow-vented Bulbul.	Pycnonotus xanthopygus.	....	Migratory.	Among trees, gardens, &c.	Met with in Egypt, but is rare.
Blue Rock-Thrush.	Monticola cyanea.	Humamet.	Resident.	Edge of desert, rocks, &c.	Found in Upper Egypt and Nubia, more abundant in spring and autumn.
Rock-Thrush.	Monticola saxatilis.	Um Aby.	Migratory.	Waste land and stony ground.	In winter found everywhere, and is fairly common from September to April.
Song-Thrush.	Turdus musicus.	Chahrur.	Migratory.	Cultivated land, gardens, trees.	Fairly abundant in the Delta and Lower Egypt, very rare further south.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Blackbird.	Turdus merula.	....	Migratory.	Trees and fields.	Rare. Met with sometimes in Lower Egypt in winter.
Ring-Ousel.	Turdus torquatus.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land, river banks, &c.	Very rare, said to be found in Lower Egypt.
Field-fare.	Turdus pilaris.	....	Migratory.	Open cultivated land, waste land.	A rare winter visitor to Lower Egypt.
Robin.	Erithacus rubecula.	....	Migratory.	Trees, gardens.	Found in Lower Egypt in the winter.
Blue-throat (1) (Red spot).	Erithacus suecicus.	....	Resident.	Gardens, shady places, long grass.	Common throughout Egypt, but more so in the Delta, specially in winter.
Blue-throat (2) (White spot).	Erithacus cyaneculus.	....	Resident.	Ditto do.	Ditto do.
Nightingale.	Erithacus luscinia.	Bulbul.	Migratory.	Gardens and clumps of trees.	Rare, but found in Egypt and Nubia during migration.
Eastern Nightingale.	Erithacus philomela.	....	Migratory.	Trees and gardens.	Very rare, sometimes seen during migration.
Redstart.	Ruticilla phœnicurus.	....	Resident.	Bushes, low trees, gardens.	Common in spring everywhere, but more so in Middle and Lower Egypt.

Black Redstart.	Ruticilla titys.	....	Migratory.	Rocks, walls, stumps of trees.	Rare everywhere.
Palestine Redstart.	Ruticilla semirufa.	....	Migratory.	Trees and scrub.	Extremely rare everywhere.
Rufus Warbler.	Ædon galactodes.	....	Migratory.	Thick, low bushes, long grass.	Fairly abundant everywhere between March and September, but chiefly in Upper Egypt and Nubia.
White-throat.	Sylvia cinerea.	....	....	Woods and bushes.	Rare, but found here and there both in Egypt and Nubia.
Lesser White-throat.	Sylvia curruca.	....	Migratory.	....	Comm on everywhere in winter.
Orphean Warbler.	Sylvia orphea.	....	Resident.	Cultivation between river and desert.	Very rare, both in Egypt and Nubia.
Subalpine Warbler.	Sylvia subalpina.	....	Migratory.	Bushes, scrub, and long grass on canal banks, &c.	Abundant in the Delta, between March and September.
Garden Warbler.	Sylvia hortensis.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land, gardens.	Very scarce, found now and then in Lower Egypt.
Blackcap Warbler.	Sylvia atricapilla.	....	Migratory.	Fields and bushy places.	Not very numerous, but met with in spring and autumn in Egypt and Nubia.

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Rüppell's Warbler.	Sylvia rueppelli.	....	Migratory.	Sont trees, cultivated land.	Rather rare, but ranges during spring and autumn through Egypt and Nubia.
Dartford Warbler.	Sylvia provincialis.	....	Migratory.	Trees, bushes, and long grass.	Rare, but found sometimes in the Delta and Lower Egypt.
Sardinian Warbler.	Sylvia melanocephala.	....	Migratory.	Trees, cultivated land.	Rare, found now and then in Lower Egypt in the spring.
Spectacled Warbler.	Sylvia conspicillata.	....	Migratory.		Rare, said to have been found in Egypt in summer.
Great Sedge-Warbler.	Acrocephalus turdoides.	....	Migratory.	Marshes, swampy banks.	Has been seen in the Delta, but is extremely rare.
Sedge-Warbler.	Acrocephalus phragmitis.	....	Resident.	Cultivated land, banks of river, and among reeds.	Numerous both in Egypt and Nubia.
Clamorous Sedge-Warbler.	Acrocephalus stentorius.	....	Resident.	Thick bushes on river banks and bushy islets.	Not uncommon in the Delta and Fayum after the beginning of March.
Reed-Warbler.	Acrocephalus streperus.	....	Migratory.	Marshes, reedy lakes, and pools.	Rather rare. Found in the Delta and Fayum.

Moustached Warbler.	Lusciniola melano-pogon.	....	Resident.	Lakes and marshes.	Fairly numerous in the Delta.
Savi's Warbler.	Locustella luscinioides.	....	Resident.	Cultivated land and marshes.	Not very common. Found chiefly in the Delta and the Fayum.
Chiff-Chaff.	Phylloscopus rufus.	....	Migratory.	Bushes and scrub, grassy banks.	Common in the Delta, and found as far south as Nubia.
Willow-Warbler.	Phylloscopus trochilus	....	Migratory.	Rough grass, banks and bushes.	Common in winter everywhere, but more so in the Delta.
Bonelli's Warbler.	Phylloscopus bonellii.	....	Migratory.	Grass banks, scrub and bushes.	Numerous in Egypt and Nubia in summer.
Wood-Warbler.	Phylloscopus sibilatrix.	....	Resident.	Among trees and bushes.	Rather scarce, but ranges through Egypt and Nubia.
Olivaceous Tree-Warbler	Hypolais pallida.	....	Resident.	Sont trees and tall scrub.	Met with everywhere in Nubia, less frequently in Egypt.
Upcher's Tree-Warbler.	Hypolais languida.	....	Migratory.	Among thick scrubs and sont trees.	Very rare ; seen in the Delta.
Icterine Tree-Warbler.	Hypolais hypolais.	....	Migratory.	Gardens and trees.	Very rare, occasionally seen in the Delta.
Cetti's Warbler.	Cettia cetti.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land.	Said to have been found in Egypt.
Fan-tail Warbler.	Cisticola cisticola.	....	Resident.	Fields, cultivated land, and reedy places.	Very numerous everywhere, both in Egypt and Nubia.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Graceful Warbler.	Burnesia gracilis.	....	Resident.	Fields, cultivated land, and among rushes by the river.	Found almost everywhere, both in Egypt and Nubia.
Hooded Chat.	Saxicola monacha.	....	Resident.	Desert, borders, rocks, and barren land.	Found in Upper Egypt and Nubia in small numbers, but is not common.
White-rumped Chat.	Saxicola leucopyga.	....	Resident.	Rocks, desert and rocky islands.	Common in Nubia, and in Upper Egypt South of Kom Ombo.
Pied Chat.	Saxicola lugens.	....	Resident.	River banks, edge of desert.	Fairly abundant in Upper Egypt and Nubia.
Siberian Chat (Pied).	Saxicola leucomela.	....	Migratory.	River banks, desert.	Found during migration.
Desert Chat.	Saxicola deserti.	....	Resident.	Desert banks of river, low scrub and mud walls.	Fairly common throughout Nubia, and as far north as Middle Egypt.
Isabelline Wheatear.	Saxicola isabellina.	....	Resident.	Fields, cultivated land.	Common in Middle and Upper Egypt and Nubia.
Common Wheatear.	Saxicola œnanthe.	....	Migratory.	Bushy and cultivated land.	Seen everywhere in spring and autumn.

Eastern black-eared Chat.	Saxicola stapazina.	....	Migratory.	Gardens, field and low fences.	Very plentiful in Egypt and Nubia in summer.
Black-throated Chat.	Saxicola melano-leuca.	....	....	Cultivated land, said to prefer cotton fields.	Abundant south of the Delta, everywhere in autumn and spring.
Finsch's Chat.	Saxicola finschi.	....	Migratory.	Ditto, do.	Very rare. Has been shot in Egypt.
Tristram's Chat.	Saxicola mæsta.	....	Resident.	Rocky districts and desert.	Very rare everywhere.
Stone-Chat.	Pratincola rubicola.	....	Migratory.	Waste land.	Common in winter in Lower Egypt.
Hemprich's Stone-Chat.	Pratincola hemprichi.	....	Resident.	Stony waste land.	Very rare, but has been found in Egypt.
Whin-Chat.	Pratincola rubetra.	....	Migratory.	Scrub, dry, grassy waste land.	Fairly plentiful in both Egypt and Nubia, from September to May.
Oriental Swallow.	Hirundo savignii.	Sălon	Resident.	Mosques, houses, and all buildings, and skimming over river and pool.	Plentiful everywhere in Egypt, rarer in Nubia.
Chimney-Swallow.	Hirundo rustica.	....	Migratory.	Near buildings and rocks and river.	Seen in great numbers during migration in April and May, and again in the late autumn.

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Rufous Swallow.	Hirundo rufula.	....	Resident.	Marshy districts.	Very rare, but is found sometimes in Upper Egypt and Nubia and oftener in the Delta.
House-Martin.	Chelidon urbica.	....	Migratory.	River and banks, near villages.	Found in small numbers during migration everywhere, but is rare.
Crag-Martin.	Cotile rupestris.	....	Migratory.	....	Said to be occasionally found in Egypt—but is very rare.
Pale Crag-Martin.	Cotile obsoleta.	....	Resident.	Rocky districts, desert hills.	Common in Upper Egypt and Nubia, very rare North of Cairo.
Sand-Martin.	Cotile riparia.	....	Migratory.	River, lakes and pools.	Plentiful in Egypt during the breeding season in March and April.
White-collared Fly-catcher.	Muscicapa collaris.	....	Migratory.	Sont trees, bushes and palm groves.	During migration in autumn and spring fairly plentiful in Lower and Middle Egypt, rare further south.

Fly-catcher.	Muscicapa grisola.	....	Migratory.	Trees and fences near cultivated land.	Met with both in Egypt and Nubia, but is rare, even during migration; it, however, sometimes breeds in Egypt.
Pied Fly-catcher.	Muscicapa atricapilla.	....	Migratory.	Palm groves, fences and scrub.	Found in late spring in Lower Egypt, but is rare.
Yellow-breasted Sun-bird.	Nectarinia metallica.	....	Migratory.	Trees, shrubs, flowery plants.	Found in Nubia in summer generally as far as Kalabsheh, but sometimes to First Cataract, but is rare.
Pallid Shrike.	Lanius fallax.	....	Resident.	Stunted trees and bushes.	Fairly common both in Egypt and Nubia.
Lesser Grey Shrike.	Lanius minor.	....	Resident.	Dry, bushy places.	Found in Egypt and Nubia, but is rare.
Great Grey Shrike (Great Butcher-Bird).	Lanius excubitor.	....	Migratory,	Thorny scrub.	A very rare visitor to the Delta in winter.
Red-backed Shrike.	Lanius collurio.	....	Migratory.	Mimosa bushes and garden fences.	Met with in Egypt during migration in spring and autumn, but is not common.
Nubian Shrike.	Lanius nubicus.	....	Migratory.	Clumps of trees, thick bushes.	Very common both in Egypt and Nubia during migration in March.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Woodchat-Shrike.	Lanius auriculatus.	....	Resident.	Low bushes and scrub on river bank.	Abundant throughout Egypt and Nubia in summer. In winter chiefly in Upper Egypt and Nubia, not in Lower Egypt.
Sky-Lark.	Alauda arvensis.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated fields and open country.	Found in the Delta, where it is plentiful at times.
Crested Lark.	Galerida cristata.	Gomba.	Resident.	Waste and cultivated land.	Common everywhere in Egypt, rarer in Nubia.
Short-toed Lark.	Calandrella brachydactyla.	....	Migratory.	Waste lands and edge of desert.	Plentiful in Eygpt during migration, February to April.
Lesser Calandra.	Calandrella minor.	....	Migratory.	....	Sometimes seen in Egypt and Nubia during migration.
Calandra-Lark.	Melanocorypha calandra.	....	Migratory.	....	Very rare, but has been found in Lower Egypt.
Thick-billed Calandra.	Rhamphocorysclot-bey.	....	Migratory.	....	Has been found in Egypt, but is extremely rare.
Bifasciated Lark.	Alæmon alaudipes.	....	Resident.	Stony land and desert.	Rather scarce, but is found both in Egypt and Nubia.

Desert-Lark.	Ammomanes algeriensis.	Umbar.	Resident.	Desert.	Common in Nubia and the most southern parts of Upper Egypt.
Tristram's Desert-Lark.	Ammomanes deserti.	....	Resident.	Desert.	Very common in Upper Egypt and Nubia.
Sandy-coloured Desert-Lark.	Ammomanes cinctura.	....	Resident.	Desert.	Said to be found only in Lower Egypt.
Tawny Pipit.	Anthus campestris.	....	Migratory.	Edge of desert and waste land.	Common during migration both in Egypt and Nubia.
Indian Pipit.	Anthus rufulus.	....	Migratory.	Desert.	Has been shot in Egypt, but is very rare.
Red-throated Pipit.	Anthus cervinus.	....	Resident.	Cultivated land.	Common in Egypt and Nubia, but most abundant in the Delta.
Tree-Pipit.	Anthus trivialis.	....	Migratory.	Groves of trees, gardens, &c.	During migration, March and April, it is found in numbers both in Egypt and Nubia.
Meadow-Pipit.	Anthus pratensis.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land.	Very rare everywhere, found occasionally in the Delta in winter.
Water-Pipit.	Anthus spipoletta.	....	Migratory.	Marshy land and wet irrigated field.	Rare, but found in Lower Egypt, chiefly in the Delta and Fayum.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Grey Wagtail.	Motacilla melanope.	....	Migratory.	River banks and pools.	Not very common, but is found both in Upper and Lower Egypt.
White Wagtail.	Motacilla alba.	Abou Jascik.	Migratory.	River banks and sand banks.	Common everywhere, but much more so in the Delta.
White-winged or Rock-Wagtail.	Motacilla vidua.	....	Resident.	Among rocks in and near the river.	Common in Nubia and the First Cataract.
Ray's Yellow Wagtail.	Motacilla campestris.	....	Resident.	River banks and pools.	Common in Nubia (white eyebrow).
Grey-headed Yellow Wagtail.	Motacilla cinereicapilla.	....	Resident.	River banks and pools.	Common in Egypt (no white eyebrow). N.B.—The eyebrow alone distinguishes these two varieties (the rest of the plumage being identical).
Black-headed Yellow Wagtail.	Motacilla feldeggi.	....	Resident.	River banks, both desert and cultivated.	Common in Upper Egypt and Nubia ; found also in the Fayum.

Common Sparrow.	Passer domesticus.	Zara zar.	Resident.	Towns, villages, fields &c.	Common everywhere.
Spanish Sparrow.	Passer hispaniolensis.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land, villages, &c.	Common at times, and sometimes breeds in Egypt.
Italian. Sparrow.	Passer italiæ.	....	Migratory.	Fields and houses.	Very rare ; occasionally seen in Egypt and Nubia.
Tree-Sparrow.	Passer montanus.	....	Migratory.	Fields and gardens.	Very rare ; sometimes found in the Delta.
Linnet.	Acanthis cannabina.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land, bushy places.	Rare south of Cairo, common in the Delta in winter.
Goldfinch.	Carduelis elegans.	....	Migratory.	Bushes, rough grass, and overgrown waste land.	Rare everywhere except during the winter in the Delta.
Chaffinch.	Fringilla cælebs.	....	Migratory.	Gardens, bushy and cultivated land.	Only found in the Delta in the winter.
Hawfinch.	Coccothraustes coccothraustes.	....	Migratory.		Has been found in Egypt, but extremely rare.
Trumpeting Finch.	Erythrospiza githaginea.	.... Gamier.	Resident.	Fields near the edge of desert, rough grass and dry bushes near river.	Common in Upper Egypt and Nubia.

LIST OF BIRDS—*contd.*

English Name.	Latin Name.	Arabic Name.	Resident or Migratory.	Locality.	Range.
Smaller Reed-Bunting.	Emberiza palustris.	....	Migratory.	Marshy land.	Extremely rare. Has been found in the Delta.
Cretzschmar's Bunting.	Emberiza cæsia.	....	Migratory.	Reedy and marshy places.	Rare, found occasionally during March and April in the Delta.
Common Bunting.	Emberiza miliaria.	....	Migratory.	Cultivated land, and banks of canals.	Fairly plentiful in the Delta and Fayum in early spring. Much rarer further south.
Ortolan Bunting.	Emberiza hortulana.	....	Migratory.	Fields and cultivated land.	Found in late spring and early autumn during migration chiefly in Lower and Middle Egypt.
Golden Oriel.	Oriolus galbula.	Sufree.	Migratory.	Trees and bushy places.	Plentiful in Egypt and Nubia during migration.
Starling.	Sturnus vulgaris.	Zarzur.	Migratory.	Fields and reedy places.	Common in the Delta in winter, rare further south.
Rose-coloured Pastor.	Pastor roseus.	....	Migratory.	....	Only once found in the country.
Magpie.	Pica pica.	....	Resident.	....	Has been mentioned as seen in Egypt.

Alpine Chough.	Pyrrhocorax alpinus.	....	Resident.	Rocky districts.	Said to have been found in Egypt.
Abyssinian Raven.	Corvus affinis.	Gurob Gebelli.	Resident.	Rocky districts.	Egypt and Nubia, but rare everywhere.
Brown-necked Raven.	Corvus umbrinus.	Asfur el Shatan, or el asued.	Resident.	Mountainous districts and desert.	Found in fair numbers in both Egypt and Nubia.
Hooded Crow.	Corvus cornix.	Grorub belladi.	Resident.	Trees and river banks.	Rather rare in Nubia, elsewhere common.
Jackdaw.	Corvus monedula.	....	....	Trees and buildings.	Rare everywhere, hardly ever seen away from the Delta.
Rook.	Corvus frugilegus.	....	Migratory.	Trees and fields.	Only in the Delta in winter.

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